



Media Release March 24th, 2020

**Important information for the Espanola & Area Community on COVID-19
(Nairn, McKerrow, Massey, Sagamok, Webwood, Espanola, Birch Island)**

As of March 25th there will be a mobile COVID-19 Assessment Centre for the residents of our community.

Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre (ERHHC) as the lead agency has partnered with Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board – Paramedic Services to mobilize a COVID-19 Paramedic Response Team in partnership with Espanola and Area Family Health Team and Public Health Sudbury District – Espanola office.

The center's purpose is to assess and, **only where appropriate**, swab people who may be infected with COVID-19. The goal of this response team is to minimize the significant number of patients presenting themselves to Primary Care or the Emergency Department at Espanola Regional Hospital.

The COVID-19 Paramedic Response Team is accessed by appointment only.

Individuals will be referred after screening is done by: Telehealth Ontario, Public Health Unit Sudbury & Districts, Family Physician's Office, Sagamok Wellness Centre, and Birch Island Health Centre.

If you have met the screening criteria your health care provider will give you the number for the COVID-19 Assessment Centre phone line. You will be asked to leave a message as directed and follow the telephone prompts on the COVID-19 Assessment Line.

The Assessment Line will answer calls between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm daily (Monday to Friday) and the COVID-19 Paramedic Response Team will run 8am to 8pm (7 days a week). Individuals with general questions must **not** call the Espanola COVID -19 Assessment Centre. Instead, please visit Public Health Sudbury & Districts website, call your Primary Care Provider / Family Doctor or call Telehealth to be screened.

Individuals must meet the following criteria for an Assessment Centre appointment:

1. Symptoms:
Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) and/or cough (new or worsening)
AND
2. Exposure History within the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms:
 - a. Travel outside of Canada
 - b. Had close interactions with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19
 - c. Had close interactions with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 who recently travelled outside of Canada

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There are two steps to be followed to receive an appointment at the Espanola COVID-19 Assessment Centre:

- Patients need to complete an assessment by telephone and will be triaged by a nurse from ERHHC.
- Patients triaged by the ERHHC nurse will be referred to the COVID-19 Paramedic Response Team who will contact them for an in-home assessment.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board – Paramedic Services , Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre (ERHHC), Espanola and Area Family Health Team, and Public Health Sudbury District – Espanola office wants to thank the public in advance for their cooperation.