



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

www.nwhu.on.ca

March 12, 2020

Health Care Provider Alert: COVID-19

Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) is taking calls from the public and guiding their next steps with regard to the need for COVID-19 testing.

In the interest of supporting the public, we would like to share information about our process. Please contact Donna Stanley, Manager of Infectious Diseases at 807-223-3301 ext. 302520 or dstanley@nwhu.on.ca if you have concerns with this process.

It is likely that the process will change over time as risk and the presence of COVID-19 in our region changes.

Currently, the process is:

- NWHU receives calls, triages and identifies those who may require medical assessment and possible testing
- ER assesses and, based on assessment, tests for COVID-19

NWHU calls are being handled as follows:

- Anyone who has **no symptoms** will not be tested.
- Anyone who has **no symptoms** but has travelled outside Canada or has had contact with the Mining Conference, should self-monitor for 14 days after last contact with the exposure. We do not check in daily with those self-monitoring.
- Anyone who has **symptoms but has not travelled** and has not had contact with the Mining Conference will not be tested at this time for COVID-19.
- Anyone who has **symptoms of fever and or a deeper cough (not just stuffy nose drip cough) but has travelled or was at the Mining Conference** should be tested based on physician assessment. For those individuals, the patient or NWHU should let the ER know they are coming for assessment.

Thank you

Dr. Ian Gemmill
Acting Medical Officer of Health
Northwestern Health Unit

