

How does COVID-19 testing work in Kawartha Lakes?

Following the announcement of the first positive case of COVID-19 in Kawartha Lakes on March 14, the hospital introduced a temporary 'drive-thru' assessment centre in its ambulance bay. On March 18 the hospital implemented a new assessment model in response to community feedback and guidelines from the Ministry of Health.

The updated COVID-19 Assessment Centre model will have patients call first for a phone assessment by a nurse or physician, who will refer the caller for the appropriate next steps, which may include self-monitoring instructions, self-isolation instructions, testing at an offsite location at the Lindsay Exhibition ground, or seeking care in the hospital.

If an individual suspects they might have COVID-19, they should first complete the COVID-19 Self-Assessment at [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus). If indicated by the self-assessment results, contact Telehealth at [1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000) or the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (www.hkpr.on.ca) at [1-866-888-4577](tel:1-866-888-4577) ext. 5020.

If symptoms are severe, call 911 and alert the dispatcher of travel history and symptoms.

Starting March 18, the hospital's COVID-19 Assessment Centre can be reached at [705-328-6217](tel:705-328-6217). The centre is open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meanwhile, the hospital is continuing to work with local, regional and provincial partners on coordinated response planning during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation evolves day by day, the hospital asks the community to visit www.rmh.org/covid-19 for the latest information about the COVID-19 Assessment Centre and enhanced measures regarding patients, care programs and visitors.