

In-home COVID-19 testing available for Kawartha Lakes residents

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Kawartha Lakes residents who have COVID-19 symptoms and need to be tested, but don't have access to a vehicle, can now obtain in-home assessments.

The Ross Memorial Hospital, in partnership with Kawartha Lakes Paramedic Services, has started booking appointments for in-home assessment and testing. The hospital is still running an offsite assessment and testing clinic at the Lindsay Exhibition grounds.

The hospital reports it has seen a significant increase in the need for assessment and testing over the last few weeks, and has been working hard to meet that need. The clinical team has assessed more than 800 individuals since March 15, including 305 virtual/phone assessments, and more than 500 in-person assessments. Of those, 115 individuals have been swabbed for COVID-19.

Positive cases continue to be reported through the HKPR website <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/covid-19-2/covid-19/>.

“With confirmed community spread of COVID-19, we urge everyone to follow the government's advice and that includes social distancing and whenever possible, self-isolation, so that together, we can flatten the curve,” says Veronica Nelson, Interim president and CEO, who is grateful to the community for taking the recommendations of public health seriously.

When it comes to COVID-19 assessment and care, concerned community members are encouraged to complete the interactive self-assessment tool online at [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://ontario.ca/coronavirus). If indicated, call Telehealth at [1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000) or the health unit at [1-866-888-4577](tel:1-866-888-4577) ext. 5020 for advice on next steps.

If referred by Telehealth, public health, or other care provider, please contact the RMH COVID-19 Assessment Centre at [705-328-6217](tel:705-328-6217). The phone lines are open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clinical staff can provide advice on next steps, which may include self-monitoring, self-isolation, in-home assessment by paramedics, or proceeding to the offsite location or to the emergency department for further assessment and/or testing. Access to the offsite location is by appointment only.

The hospital has also established a dedicated unit to care for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, and has plans in place to scale up care areas, based on demand.

There are several enhanced measures in place as well, including visitor and entrance restrictions. Active screening is in place for all who enter the building, including temperature readings. Many elective appointments and procedures have been postponed, and whenever possible, staff are staying in touch with patients through

virtual methods.

News, resources and current patient and visitor restrictions can be found at:

<https://rmh.org/covid-19>