

# Submissions on Behalf of the Medical Staff Association of the Rouge Valley Health System to the Ontario SARS Commission



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# Submissions

1. Necessity for Central Monitoring Agency

- a central monitoring agency for global outbreaks of infectious diseases is essential but we cannot wait for it.

2. Regulations under *Public Hospitals Act*, a Cost-Effective and Immediate Mechanism to Make Infectious Disease a Public Hospital Priority

- the current provincial legislative framework is capable, with some amendment, of addressing many of the breakdowns.

3. Establishment of a Disaster Relief Compensation Fund

- a disaster relief compensation fund for physicians must be established which will consistently and equitably address both:
  - Workplace contracted illnesses or death; and
  - Income interruption or replacement

# Submission #1 - Necessity for Central Monitoring Agency

- An essential step for the protection of public health
- Our physicians need a more immediate response to pressing issues
- Our physicians insist that infection control be put back on the provincial radar screen

## Submission #2 - Regulations under *Public Hospitals Act*, a Cost-Effective and Immediate Mechanism to Make Infectious Disease a Public Hospital Priority

- *Public Hospitals Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.40
- Mandate:
- Establishes the legal framework for public hospitals in the Province, and ensures their management, operation and governance is in the public interest

# *Public Hospitals Act,* **Regulations**

- Capital Grants and Loans – O. Reg. 459/93
- Classification of Hospitals – R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 964
- Financial Reports by Hospital Subsidiaries – O. Reg. 553/96
- **Hospital Management – R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 965**

# *Public Hospitals Act,*

## **Hospital Management Regulation – 965**

- Regulation 965 provides a legislative framework to deal with the management of public hospitals
- Infectious disease matters can be dealt with under this Regulation, however various amendments need to be made

# Proposed Amendments

## Infectious Disease Position

- s.(2)(1) of the Regulation states that every public hospital shall be governed and managed by a board.
- s.2(3)(e) states that the board shall ensure that the administrator, medical staff, chief nursing executive, staff nurses and nurses who are managers develop plans to deal with,
- Proposed Amendment to s.2(3)(e)
  - ***(iii) infection control and to establish a paid and protected full time position for an infectious disease health professional responsible inter alia, for monitoring infectious disease alerts and disseminating communications within the hospital facility,***

# Proposed Amendments Infectious Disease Position

- 4. (1) Every board shall pass by-laws that,
  - (a) provide for the management and administration of the hospital and set out at least,
- Proposed Amendment to s.4(1)
  - *(x) the appointment for a full time paid and protected position for an infectious disease health professional;*



# Proposed Amendments

## Occupational Health Certification

- Section 4.(1)
- - Every board shall pass by-laws that,
  - 4.(d) establish and provide for the operation of an **occupational health and safety program** for the hospital that shall include procedures with respect to,
- Proposed Amendment to s.4(d)
  - *(vi) the certification by an occupational health physician of any member of the medical, dental or hospital staff or other personnel suspected of or actually affected by an infectious disease before returning to work in the facility,*

# Proposed Amendments

## Dangerous or Infectious Patients

- Proposed Amendment s.15(1)
- *15. (1) Every board shall ensure that the hospital provides for appropriate patient isolation equipped with negative pressure rooms, air handling and an appropriate anteroom for infection control purposes as necessary.*
- **(to replace:** Every board shall ensure that the hospital provides for the isolation of patients as is necessary in the circumstances. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 965, s. 15.)

# Proposed Amendments - Outbreaks of Dangerous or Infectious Diseases

- Proposed Amendment s.15.1

## *Outbreaks of dangerous or infectious diseases*

- *15.1 Upon notice from the Minister, its agents or representatives of a possible outbreak of infectious disease, every hospital in Ontario shall implement immediately the following minimum precautions and control mechanisms to ensure that the risk of such infectious disease is contained:*

# Proposed Amendments - Outbreaks of Dangerous or Infectious Diseases

- a) Distribute a copy of the hospitals infectious disease protocol to every member of the medical dental and hospital staff of the facility,*
- b) Establish and implement standard infection control measures to address suspected communicable disease arising from airborne, droplet and or contract transmission,*
- c) To establish and designate an area of the hospital for suspected infectious patients and to use the appropriate equipment and supplies in the management and treatment of patients for the purposes of infection control,*

# Proposed Amendments - Outbreaks of Dangerous or Infectious Diseases

- d) To post clear directions and signage at hospital admitting departments and emergency department entrances to direct suspected infectious disease patients to a designated screening area,*
- e) To establish and maintain a system of communication between the hospital and the members of the medical and dental staff, advising of current case statistics and particulars of all actual and suspected infectious patients within the hospital facility,*
- f) To provide every member of the medical, dental and hospital staff and personnel with an infectious disease protection kit together with appropriate instructions on its implementation and use,*

# Submission #3

## Establishment of a Disaster-Relief Compensation Fund

- Fund must be equitable and consistently applied
- Clear and unequivocal provisions if workplace illness or death results for a physician
- Income interruption or replacement should be complete. Physician overhead must be paid at 100% (not to be discounted during crisis)