

Public Safety Division
Public Safety Training Division

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MEMORANDUM TO: All Chiefs of Police and
Commissioner Thomas Carrique
Chairs, Police Services Boards

FROM: Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

SUBJECT: **Launch of the First Responders COVID-19 Risk Look-Up
Web Portal**

DATE OF ISSUE:	April 13, 2020
CLASSIFICATION:	For Action
RETENTION:	Indefinite
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PRIORITY:	High

Further to All Chiefs Memos 20-0041 and 20-0044, I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of the Solicitor General (ministry) has launched the First Responders COVID-19 Risk Look-Up web portal (the Portal). The Portal includes information about the COVID-19 status of specific individuals (i.e., *name, address, date of birth, and whether the individual has had a positive test result*).

The ministry will only provide access to the Portal for authorized users identified by police services who are involved in communication and dispatch centres. This restrictive approach is to protect personal health information from unauthorized access and use, and to promote compliance with the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA). The EMCPA requires that information shared pursuant to the emergency order *only* be used to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of the emergency. The EMCPA also requires that any information-sharing authorized under the emergency order occur in a manner that limits its intrusiveness.

The ministry requests that police services boards and chiefs of police ensure this information is secured appropriately at communication and dispatch centres. Information should only be disclosed when needed to support frontline policing personnel in making informed decisions about whether to take additional precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when responding to calls for service while the emergency order is in effect.

Please note that having access to COVID-19 status information is only one tool to assist frontline personnel when taking appropriate precautions. It is important to continue to exercise caution and seek advice from local public health units on precautionary measures to take during interactions with the public. There may be situations where an individual may have COVID-19 but has not had a positive test, or when information about a positive test result is not immediately available. Individuals may also be able to spread COVID-19 without showing any symptoms.

For more information on the limitations of the information in the Portal, please refer to the user guide provided to authorized users.

Avoid Outreach to Specified Custodians

Police services boards and chiefs of police should ensure that policing personnel **do not contact** specified custodians (i.e., licensed laboratories and Medical Officers of Health (public health units)) for COVID-19 status information. This information is accessible through the Portal and will be updated as information becomes available.

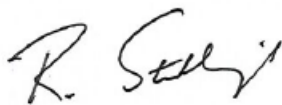
As a result of specified custodians providing the Ministry of Health with the COVID-19 status information to be made available through the Portal, pursuant to [O. Reg. 120/20](#), these specified custodians are no longer required to provide that information directly to policing personnel upon request (e.g., police officers, First Nations Constables, special constables, etc.).

Like policing personnel, laboratories and public health units are on the front line responding to and helping contain the spread of COVID-19. It is important they focus on their critical public health mandate rather than on responding to various queries from policing personnel now that the Portal is available.

I appreciate your patience through the development of the Portal and I thank you for your commitment to supporting the health and well-being of Ontarians. If you have any questions about the Portal, please contact Savio Pereira at Savio.Pereira@ontario.ca.

I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Stubbings', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Stubbings
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division