

EARLY EXPERIENCE WITH SCREENING FOR COVID-19 IN TORONTO

DATA AND TIME FRAME

Analysis of data on persons under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 from Jan. 20 to Feb. 19, 2020, at 8 hospital emergency departments (EDs) in Toronto, Ontario.



210

patients **assessed** for COVID-19 (estimate)



135

patients **tested** for COVID-19



128

patients **sent home** for self isolation



7

patients **admitted** to hospital

CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PUI PATIENTS

95%

Presented without EMS*

28

Median age (years)

82%

Cough or shortness of breath

48%

Fever

30%

Sore throat

2%

Required oxygen

TAKE-AWAYS



hospital visits may be avoidable



barriers to testing outside of acute care hospitals are likely contributing to avoidable ED visits



urgent need for home and community testing for COVID-19 to minimize ED overcrowding, health care worker infection and risks to acutely ill patients

*Note: EMS = emergency medical services | Graphic: iStock/Muammar khaliid

Source: Lin M, Belavsky A, Katz K, et al. What can early Canadian experience screening for COVID-19 teach us about how to prepare for a pandemic? *CMAJ* 2020. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.200305; early-released March 6, 2020.

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