March 16, 2020

IQMH Response to COVID-19

Updates regarding IQMH’s response to COVID-19 will be communicated online at www.iqmh.org.

The IQMH office remains open, but with significantly reduced staff on site at the present time.

IQMH has been closely monitoring developments in relation to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak since it first emerged. We have a dedicated team assessing the situation, as it evolves, and leading our preparation and response.

With widespread community transmission of COVID-19 now likely underway in Canada, and following the advice of Canadian health authorities, IQMH has taken the following precautions to mitigate the risk of potential spread of COVID-19:

- **Events and Meetings**
  All in-person events and meetings, including Scientific Committee and Advisory Panel meetings, whether inside or outside the IQMH offices will be conducted remotely using phone or video conferencing and/or online communications until further notice.

- **Accreditation Visits**
  All on-site accreditation visits scheduled between now and the end of April 2020 are cancelled and will be rescheduled for later in the year, circumstances permitting. Further cancellations beyond April may be necessary and will be communicated as decisions are made in light of the prevailing circumstances.

- **Educational Courses**
  All education courses, whether on site or off site, are cancelled until further notice.

- **Proficiency Testing Surveys**
  All proficiency testing surveys will continue, as scheduled, at this time. IQMH is working closely with Public Health to develop and implement a proficiency testing program for laboratories licensed to perform testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The first survey is expected to be shipped on or around April 13, 2020. Further details will be provided to those laboratories performing this testing as soon as more information becomes available.

- **IQMH Employees**
  IQMH has implemented a work-from-home policy for all employees who can perform their functions remotely, and all business travel is suspended until further notice.

With these precautionary measures and business contingency plans in place, please be assured that IQMH is doing all that we can to continue delivering services in a safe manner consistent with latest advice and guidance.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this rapidly evolving, unprecedented event.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sumner
IQMH President