PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE STRATEGIES

1.	**Case and Contact Management of Confirmed and Probable Cases**	• Comprehensive case and contact management activities that align with Ministry of Health directives • Dedicated support to hospitals and healthcare providers including providing a dedicated phone line for health care professionals seven days a week • Support three hospital-based York Region COVID-19 Assessment Centres by providing lab results to patients who have undergone COVID-19 testing

2.	**Outbreak Management**	• Ill residents and staff are tested to identify a causative agent for illness and that all control measures are implemented
		
		• Control measures are implemented to prevent further spread of illness within a facility
		
		• COVID-19 outbreaks (as compared with other respiratory outbreaks) require additional control measures in a number of areas including:
		
		    o The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
		
		    o Broader testing, beyond those experiencing symptoms of illness is required for close contacts of cases in the homes (i.e. well individuals sharing the same or living in a room adjacent to a confirmed case)

3.	**Assessment Centre Testing**	• In York Region there are three COVID-19 Assessment Centres located:
		
		    o Mackenzie Health Hospital
		
		    o Markham-Stouffville Hospital
		
		    o Southlake Regional Health Centre
		
		• These hospitals manage their own assessment centres
		
		• Screening criteria varies between each Assessment Centre
		
		• The York Region Emergency Operations Centre liaises with hospitals to follow up on positive results and to send more people for testing

4.	**Physical Distancing**	• Physical distancing is proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of illness during an outbreak • Social Distancing (2 metres of space between yourself and others) was implemented very early in the pandemic as one measure to help prevent person to person transmission. Respiratory droplets expelled from the mouth when talking or coughing are not able to travel through the air beyond the 2 metres physical distance which ensures individuals in the same area will not transmit COVID-19 to one another as long as this distance is maintained • Physical distancing is used extensively in our messaging to the general community to prevent spread, as well as to individuals who are infected with COVID-19 to protect their household contacts from becoming ill