

The Pulse

October 1, 2020

Today's Take-Aways

News Related To COVID-19

Regional Updates

• There continues to be lots of discussion around swabbing and the increased demand on resources – not only in terms of people acquiring the test but also the turn around times for having it analyzed. It's our understanding that the list of COVID symptoms is being reviewed and if revised, this could alleviate some of the demand. As a hospital we are doing what we can to assist including providing some staffing to RC VTAC in order to help increase capacity.

• Throughout the region, hospitals are experiencing staffing shortages due to COVID-19 exposure risks. Additionally, in Ottawa where nearly two dozen long-term care and retirement homes are in outbreak, staff are being deployed to assist in those settings. Hospitals are also experiencing high occupancy and are challenged by a large number of Alternate Level of Care patients and not enough placement opportunities for them post-discharge due to the pandemic.

• A Flu Shot Clinic Committee comprised of EMS, Public Health, hospital, and primary care representatives is being formed in anticipation of a much large uptake of the flu shot this year. Part of our role in this may be to offer flu shots to patients at every encounter. More to come!

• Renfrew County hospitals may soon be moving to a policy of universal eye protection for all patient interactions. More details to come.

Human Resources

• While our region prepares for the "second wave" of COVID-19, we want to ensure that we are able to support our partners in long-term care and retirement home settings when needed. To facilitate this planning, we are once again asking all clinical staff to complete the Voluntary Redeployment Survey located on the PRH Intranet (https://www.pembrokeregionalhospital.ca/staff-redeployment) so that we can create a list of those willing to assist if need be.

• A new memo providing some guidance on how to navigate the school year in a pandemic is being issued today – FAQs Managing The School Year During COVID-19.

Clinical News

• Acute Mental Health: The department has developed a COVID document for patients to include with the admission package that clearly outlines safety measures and other COVID-related practices on the unit. This document has assisted both patients and family members and the unit has offered to share the document with other clinical programs if interested in adapting for their own patients.

• The lab has created separate drop off bins to separate the COVID swabs collected by Occ. Health which are referred to the CHEO virology lab and the swabs collected in the community which are referred to PHL. This was done to avoid swabs being sent to the wrong site and delaying results.

Occupational Health and Safety

Today's Take Aways...Continued From Front

Some clarification about our staff and family member COVID testing process:

• If staff have COVID-19 symptoms, they must call extension 8200 to discuss testing. This phone is manned by Occ. Health Monday to Friday and the Charge Nurse after hours and on weekends. If you call the number and it is not answered, the person is either on another call or occupied. It is recommended that you call back rather than leave a message as messages may not be checked regularly.

• If an employee's immediate family members have symptoms, please send an email to occhealth@prh.email with the your name and phone number. Also indicate the identity of the person with symptoms. Someone from Occupational Health and Safety will contact you. If Occ. Health has not called you back within 24 hours after sending an email, please call extension 8200.

• Symptomatic staff are the first priority for testing clinics because they are off work and we want to get them back safely as soon as possible. An employee's household members are second priority and will be scheduled ASAP. Usually, staff and household members are scheduled within two days of calling or emailing. Currently, test results are received within 24-48 hours.

• The COVID-19 testing clinics operate from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. weekdays. Occ. Health will also call self-isolating staff on weekends to discuss test results so they can come back to work.

• Everyone who is tested will receive a handout explaining how to find your test results and the next steps.

PPE

• A reminder that at PRH, it's mandatory to wear a mask in all common areas. This includes areas such as elevators, hallways, shared work areas, clinical departments, stairwells and the cafeteria. When using the cafeteria or break rooms, masks must only be removed prior to sitting in a dedicated eating/drinking area and staff must ensure six feet of physical distancing is maintained while unmasked.

The donning/ doffing station at the entrance to the cafeteria has been relocated to the seating area inside the cafeteria. This will ensure that all staff remain masked while purchasing food at the cafeteria. Any staff using the cafeteria for "dine-in" can remove their mask at their seat after purchasing their meal.

• Please note that there are currently a number of different types of procedure masks in use throughout the organization. Despite the direction of the pleats, the masks that we currently have should always be worn with the blue side out and the nose wire across the nose. The reason for this is that the fluid protection is on the outside of the mask so reversing the mask is not a suitable way to wear it.

In Other News...

Communications

• Thanks to approximately 100 staff who provided feedback about Intranet usage at 14 huddles last week. This helpful information will now be reviewed as part of our plan to transition the Intranet to a new user-friendly platform and ensure it contains useful information in an easy to access format.

• We are currently seeking staff feedback on patient use of the PRH Welcome Guide which is distributed to all inpatients. All feedback about the value of this communication tool should be forwarded to carolyn.levesque@prh.email.

• In an effort to help reduce the number of emails going out and to consolidate important messaging, where possible any memos to "All Staff" will be sent out with the weekly edition of The Pulse.

Food Services

• As part of plans to expand their hot menu items, upcoming features include: cannelloni with a side salad on October 6th and pizza on October 8th.



Rehab Roof/Deck Project:

The installation of the first layer of the 10 cm insulation and the grey paving stones around the perimeter of the roof was completed. The installation of the second layer of 10 cm insulation and the grey paving stones in the center of the roof is almost complete. The metal stainless steel garden edging is starting to be installed along the pavers next to the insulation in order to retain the soil for the green roof. The plants and shrubs have been ordered.

Tower A Roof Project:

The contractor completed installing the parapet roof edges and the guarding. The old roofing material was removed from the penthouse. The insulation was soaking wet and heavy. Rain slowed down the work this week for a few days.

Tower A 1st Floor Old Lab:

The HVAC contractor started work this week on the ductless split air conditioning system.





Happy Thanksgiving and

Thanks For Your Continued Support

It's A Cornucopia Of Savings! <u>October 4th-10th</u> 20% Off

(Plus Staff/Volunteer Discount) All Regular Priced Merchandise (Excludes: food, stamps, cards, TV rentals, books, items sold at cost)

Our Thanksgiving Draw will take place Friday, October 9th.

As an added token of appreciation for our staff and physicians, all coffee sold in the Mural Cafe will be priced at \$1 on <u>Friday, October 9th</u> so join us for a cup!

The Mural Cafe

Employee Discounts



Looking for staff discounts?

All staff discounts, employee offers, promotional codes and other PRH perks can now be found on the Staff Resources section of the PRH website:

https://www.pemreghos.org/staffdiscounts

What discounts are there?

PRH Staff Association / Insurance Providers Local Health and Fitness Facilities / CAA Scrubs / Access Perks / Perkopolis Park 'n Fly and more...

Do You Have A COVID-19 Question?

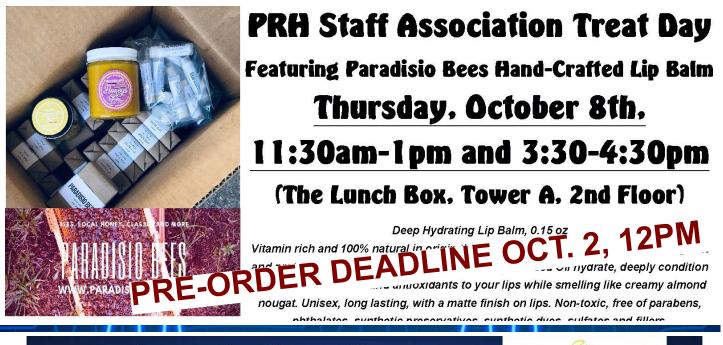
Email: covid19questions@prh.email

Would you like to celebrate or express gratitude to a group or individual?

Email: celebration&recognition@prh.email

For other questions/concerns, contact Infection Prevention and Control (ext. 7106) or Occupational Health and Safety (ext. 7202).





Foundation News

Pembroke Regional OF Fondation de l'Hôpital Hospital Foundation

Important Dates This Week:

- Thursday: Auto Lotto car lottery for healthcare is LIVE www.autolotto.ca
- Friday: last day to purchase sponsorship opportunities and/or tickets for the Ungala@Home. www.prhfoundation.com/ungala
- Saturday: Catch the Ace Drive Thru Sales open at 775 Pembroke St. E! Hours are Saturdays 10-2, Mondays 8-8, Tuesdays 8-2
- Monday, October 5: The Un-gala@Home Online Auction closes at 12 noon www.prhfoundation.com/ungala

THANK YOU HARVEY'S

Hey, remember our June 30th BBQ?

We just got word that Harvey's picked up the tab for that with the message:

"During Covid-19, we wanted to thank front line workers. This year was on us." Stephen Suderman, Operations/ Franchise, Peterborough Burger Limited

They paid for 175 Grilled Chicken burgers and 299 Original Burgers.!

Thanks again to the Harvey's Pembroke team of General



Manager Lynn Thomas, Gregg Thomas and Elena Krieger who kept everything hot and flowing on that special summer day!

Donate An Old Mobile Phone, Tablet Or Laptop To Help Our Community During COVID-19





The Phoenix Centre for Children and Families, Renfrew County's Accredited Children's Mental Health Centre and the Champlain Mental Health and Addictions COVID-19 Task Group have asked for donations of unused or surplus electronic devices to assist with virtual care delivery during the pandemic.

During this difficult time, these organizations are working with agencies throughout the Champlain region to make mental health and addiction services available to individuals or families needing help through virtual platforms.

To learn more about specific requirements, please call (613) 735-9565 or email jrowsell@phoenixctr.com.

All device donations will be wiped to the highest data security standards and uploaded with all the required platforms/applications.



draw December 8th, 2020

Donation made in Recognition

Mr. Vern Roesner says "Thank you" to the entire Emergency Department, on behalf of his mother and family.

> Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation

Fondation de l'Hôpital Régional de Pembroke

GRATITUDE

Pharmacy

- Thanks to **Brittaney Fraser (Rehab)** for her involvement at the last minute with our Ontario College of Pharmacists annual accreditation.

Brittaney was approached at the last minute to communicate virtually with our OCP assessor. Brittaney was honest, transparent and very engaged. She answered all the questions with confidence and enthusiasm.

Our assessor also wanted to give a shout out to Brittaney for the great job she did.

<u>AMH</u>

- Welcome Bonnie!

- **Sam, May and AI** received Guardian Angel pins from a patient who appreciated their care.

- **Bailey** for taking the time to help a patient with her hair and braid it.



Thanksgiving Treat In Appreciation For All You Do

Instead of having our annual Staff Appreciation Thanksgiving Reception and, in recognition of National Catholic Health Care Week (October 4-10),

individually wrapped fall-themed festive cookies from Wilkies will be made available for all staff and physicians (one per person) on <u>Tuesday, October 6th.</u>

Departments will be contacted for pickup and in some cases cookies will be delivered early in the afternoon.



Current Facts and Figures

• PRH: 0 COVID positive patients

Renfrew County:

- 7 active cases, 1 death
- 28,498 tests completed

Ottawa:

- 677 active cases, 289 deaths

Ontario:

- 7,826 active cases, 2,851 deaths

