

# The Pulse

August 19, 2021

# Today's Take-Aways

# **Critical Care**

 Across the board the number of positive cases of COVID-19 are once again on the rise and we are seeing some patients requiring admission to ICUs, the majority of which are linked to the Delta variant of the virus.

# **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution**

• Today marks the last mass vaccination clinic at the PMC. Going forward, public health will be continuing vaccination efforts through pop-up clinics which we will be supporting from a human resources perspective as needed.

• In terms of a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or "booster" shot, the current guidance is recommending that those at highest risk (immunocompromised or in a long-term care or retirement home setting) will be eligible for these. PRH will support this effort as needed.

• With the recent announcement and issuance of Directive #6 from the Province's Chief Medical Officer, there will be a requirement for PRH to create a vaccination policy.

Under the guidelines of Directive #6, staff and physicians will be required to be fully vaccinated, have a medical reason for not being vaccinated, or complete a "vaccine educational session". Individuals who do not provide proof of full vaccination will require regular antigen testing.

A team will be working on a policy and process over the next couple weeks to be ready for the September 7th compliance date.

• An inpatient vaccination process is also being developed to ensure all patients admitted to hospital have the opportunity to be receive the vaccine prior to discharge.

#### **Human Resources**

• The Government of Canada recently passed legislation introducing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a new federal holiday, which will be observed on September 30 of each year beginning in 2021 to provide an opportunity for Canadians to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a federal holiday and applies to federally regulated public and private sector employers only. Hospitals, as provincially regulated employers, are not required to observe the new holiday. The Pembroke Regional Hospital recognizes the following (12) days as holidays:

New Year's Day Good Friday Easter Monday Victoria Day

Labour Day Thanksgiving Day Christmas Day Boxing Day August Civic Holiday Remembrance Day Canada Day Family Day (3rd Monday in Feb.)

# **Today's Take-Aways Continued**

# **Occupational Health and Safety**

• Thanks to all who have submitted their proof of vaccination so far. Please note, however, that Occupational Health requires proof of both Dose 1 and Dose 2 to confirm the vaccine manufacturing brand for each dose. This information will be tracked through Occ Health. Please submit both vaccination receipts. Also please ensure that screenshots or pictures are clear in order to clearly identify all information. You may forward the email vaccine confirmation you received or retrieve your receipts from https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/ and forward them to Occ Health.

#### **Infection Prevention and Control**

• A reminder that everyone entering the building needs to ensure that they sanitize their hands. This is the first line of defense against the spread of viruses. Please ensure that you make this part of your entry routine – every time you enter.

• As of Monday, fully electronic screening for staff and physicians was implemented and appears to be going well. Auditing procedures are being finalized for the Management team and staff and physicians can expect followup if screening is not completed prior to every shift.

# **Supply Status**

• While our supply of PPE remains stable, we are continuing to experience supply chain issue for other items due to backorders, transportation delays and other manufacturing issues. Please note that any departments impacted by these issues will be contacted directly with additional details.

# **Project Updates**

• The Cancer Care Renovation is moving at a steady pace. The heavy demolition was completed last week and they are currently working on the terrazzo flooring. The asbestos abatement contractor will be working in select areas of LDRP and 2nd medical to safely remove the small amount of asbestos that must be disturbed as part of this renovation. A memo will be sent with more details.

• GE Opera - In January 2021, we received approval for funding from the Ministry of Health to purchase an OR booking software to support OR efficiency. Moreover, it will help improve the communication between the team, the patients and their families.

A working group has now been formed to support the implementation of this scheduling software. Recently, a mapping session took place with OR, POAC, Health Information and IT staff to determine where the software will improve existing processes.

• Medication Transformation - The new medication carts will be implemented on 3B on August 30th. Staff will be trained to use this equipment which will further enhance patient safety.

# **Departmental Updates:**

#### **Emergency Department / ICU**

• The department is experiencing a higher volume of patients with a higher volume of those presenting in critically ill conditions.

• Over the summer months we were able to recruit six external RNs and four RPNs for the ED/ICU. This has been in addition to internal candidates that have been successful for positions. The increased nursing resources have greatly improved staffing challenges and the ability to provide outstanding patient care! Plus there are more interested candidates applying. Things are looking up!

• An inter-disciplinary rounds process has been implemented in the ICU improving communication with patients and families and increasing efficiency in the department.

# **Operating Room**

• The scheduled two-week slowdown has ended and all four ORs are now back up to full capacity.

# **Today's Take-Aways Continued**

# **Diagnostic Imaging**

• Additional MRI hours are being added in order to assist in reducing the waitlist.

# Rehabilitation

• Did you know that you can now enjoy an outdoor break on the Rehab patio? This area is now open for staff and patients who are accompanied by a staff member to enjoy some fresh air and sunshine!

The entrance to the patio is accessed from the inpatient Rehab dining room on First floor Tower B and the space is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There is a hand hygiene and masking station located by the patio entrance and we ask that you follow all of our current COVID-19 restrictions for safe social distancing and masking when you are enjoying the patio.



# Mental Health Services of Renfrew County

• As part of an effort to reintroduce group work and therapy, a successful Zoom session for the Mind Over Mood program was held on a trial basis recently. This format was well received and expansion of the format will be used for broader programming opportunities throughout the county.



# Today's Final PMC Clinic Receives Sponsored Meal

Today's team at the final PMC vaccination clinic received a meal generously sponsored by R.G.T. Clouthier Construction and catered by Milano's Pizza in Petawawa.

"Thank you for your dedication and support in keeping our community safe!"



# **Medical Program**

• Shout out to **Christine Jones** who was the only unit clerk for both 3B and 2A on August 6th. She managed to stay on top of both units! Great job Christine.

• Huge shout out to **Lisa Gravel** from Health Links! Assisted with a complex patient in regards to finances. Thank you Lisa. *Michael Peters* 

• We would like to give a shout out to **Michael Peters** for helping a family get a bed delivered. He went above and beyond to get the family this bed. Great job Michael!

• Kelly M. for coming up to help out on 3B with complex discharges. Your help was greatly appreciated. *Kristen and Rachel* 

# Miscellaneous

• **Naomi Beaulieu** was celebrated by Grace Weisenberg during the August 13th status update for her diligence in finding ways to improve our funding efforts in systemic therapy.

• Thank you to **Connie Chippure and Deidre Chartrand** for taking the time to find an important document for me. I greatly appreciate your support during a stressful moment. *Kelly Malley* 

• Dean Quade and Lisa Bradley celebrated **Lisa Keon** August 17th for her wonderful patient-centred approach to care and her help with patient flow.

• Karen Schaffel was celebrated August 17th for being extremely helpful in ensuring both our stroke prevention clinic and inpatient rehabilitation department are running smoothly as she transitions into her new role. Sonya Silver and Lisa Bradley noted she is doing a fantastic job and wanted to let her know that they appreciate the extra time she has put into supporting them - the staff, physicians, patients and families.

# PMC COVID Vaccination Team Enjoys Another Sponsored Meal

Our gratitude is extended to the team from the Women's Sexual Assault Centre of Renfrew County who generously sponsored he August 12th meal for the COVID-19 Vaccination Team at the Pembroke Memorial Centre.

Communications Coordinator Erika Mullins was on hand on behalf of the group to deliver the lunch along with the message:

"Thanking you for all the great work you do to keep our communities safe and healthy."









EARLY BIRD TICKET HOLDERS WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN A CUSTOM DINING ROOM DECOR PACKAGE FOR THE UN-GALA



August 30th to get entered into the Early Bird Draw for a custom dining room décor package for the Un-Gala courtesv of Parvati & Athena.

> Get Your tickets now here: www.prhfoundation.com/ungala



Catch the Ace 3.0 Week 3 has begun! Get your tickets at the Mural Café on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m.to 2 p.m. or online anytime at www.prhcatchtheace.ca.

Draw closes at midnight on Tuesdays and the winner is announced live on our Facebook page at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.