

## Today's Take-Aways

### COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

• Today was scheduled to be our largest clinic to date at the Pembroke Memorial Centre, with 954 vaccinations scheduled to take place on behalf of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. Today's clinic which runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. was scheduled to be run by a 60-person team – a true collaboration of PRH staff, physicians, retirees, community volunteers, City of Pembroke staff, physicians, representatives from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit and others who have all stepped up to assist.

• We would like to reassure all remaining staff who wish to have the vaccine, but are not yet eligible, that communications regarding the timing of your vaccine will be broadly shared as soon as it is known. All hospitals in Renfrew County have the same priority classifications and therefore also have the same groupings of staff awaiting their first dose booking directions, save and except for those who are assisting with the COVID vaccination clinics. Individuals who are assisting with clinics have received their vaccinations due to the fact they are dealing with large numbers of members of the public.

• A reminder to everyone that, on March 10th, the Ontario Government extended the vaccination dose interval for Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca/ COVISHIELD for up to 16 weeks as per National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations.

This will allow Ontario to rapidly accelerate its vaccine rollout and maximize the number of people receiving their first dose of the vaccine.

At this time, the process for receiving booking information about the second dose is not 100% clear, and dates and timelines are subject to change, which is why it is important that everyone monitor the staff and public communication channels regularly.

### Occupational Health and Safety

• A reminder to those staff who require COVID-19 testing or have a family member who needs to be tested that, under the current guidelines, everyone in the household must isolate while waiting for test results. In addition, please ensure that once you have made the connection with Occupational Health and Safety to start the swabbing process that you make yourself available for all follow up communication from the department regarding the test results and next steps.

### Infection Prevention and Control

• Universal Eye Protection: Eye protection must be removed, cleaned and disinfected if it becomes soiled or difficult to see through. Eye protection must also be removed and disinfected after use in any additional precaution space before putting it back on.

Staff working in COVID cohort areas must remove and disinfect their eye protection before leaving the cohort unit and traveling to other areas of the hospital.

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

Eye protection must also be removed and disinfected after patient interaction and put back on before entering common areas such as nursing stations.

Eye protection must be worn at all times in the clinical areas, including at the nursing station.

### Other News:

#### Plant Services

- As a follow up to the March 17th evening power outages, the department would like to thank everyone for their efforts in the preparation and during the shutdown. Both outages went really well and they were completed within two hours.

Those who were in attendance will be debriefing Friday morning. Any feedback that may help improve the process for future planned outages is welcomed.

## Some Incredible Teamwork Is Happening At The PMC



# Foundation News

## PRH CATCH THE ACE WEEK 5 ESTIMATED JACKPOT

# \$18,000

### WEEKLY WINNER #3 CONNIE DOERING



This week's PRH *Catch the Ace* estimated jackpot is \$18,000! Tickets are on sale at the Mural Café on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30am until 2:00pm. You can also visit [www.prhcatchtheace.ca](http://www.prhcatchtheace.ca) to purchase your tickets.

Congratulations to our Week #3 *Catch the Ace* Winner, Connie Doering! She expressed her excitement to the Foundation by saying, "We will use this money for some fun and maybe some bills. We are so happy to support such a great cause advancing our hospital."

### WEEK #4 WINNER!

Congratulations

**Marlene**

**Barras**

# \$2,634

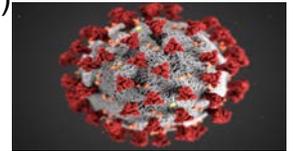


Winning ticket  
#D-5072723  
Card #24 -  
2 of Spades



## Current Facts and Figures

- **Renfrew County:** 16 active cases, 4 deaths, 73,358 tests completed (as of March 15th)
- **Ottawa:** 627 active cases, 450 deaths
- **Ontario:** 20,016 active cases, 7,202 deaths



## Guardian Angels

Brian Wanger, RT



## \$1,000 Gift Card Draw

Hosted by Veronda Brydges (Food Services)  
In Support Of Retired Co-Worker Cathy Hagarty



Only 200 Tickets Available

### \$15 Each

Tickets can be purchased in The Lunch Box from  
Amanda Schneider or by calling Veronda at (613) 281-8927.

Draw will be held March 26th @ 1 p.m. - sooner if tickets sell out.  
Winner will select the gift card vendor.

Proceeds will help Cathy with expenses as she supports her  
husband who is fighting a serious illness.

# Everything you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccines

Efficacy figures of COVID-19 vaccines don't tell whole story: experts

*By Melissa Couto Zuber, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Canada (March 5, 2021)*

Health experts are concerned the general public may be focusing on the wrong figures when analyzing the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. And they worry that will lead to unnecessary hesitancy at a time when Canada's inoculation rollout needs to ramp up.

The recently approved Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, and the shot by Johnson & Johnson that could be next in line for authorization, showed 62 and 72 per cent efficacy in preventing COVID-19 infections in their respective clinical trials.

Compared to the 95 per cent effectiveness of mRNA vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, it seems like a glaring difference. But experts stress that when it comes to preventing COVID hospitalization or death, data from trials showed all four vaccines were perfect.

"Those are the outcomes that Canadians ought to be focused on, because that's really what we care about preventing," said Charles Weijer, a bioethicist at Western University.

Weijer says he understands why the public is gravitating towards those figures, since we're used to efficacy in terms of treatments for disease.

A cancer treatment that's 95 per cent effective would be preferable to one that's 60 or 70 per cent, he said, but vaccines and other public health interventions need to be analyzed differently.

Dr. Sumon Chakrabarti, an infectious disease specialist in Mississauga, Ont., says efficacy in a trial is calculated by comparing the number of people who got COVID after receiving a vaccine to the number of those who got it after being given a placebo. Many of those who did become infected after getting a vaccine in the trials experienced mild illness, according to the data, which Chakrabarti says isn't a big concern.

Getting hung up on the wrong figures can be problematic, he adds, if it leads to a perception that the AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson vaccines are inferior.

"When you look at deaths and hospitalization, it doesn't matter if it was Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, Pfizer or Moderna, it was freaking amazing" Chakrabarti said. "Thousands of participants in the treatment arm of the trials, and not a single person died, not a single person was hospitalized."

Chakrabarti says the timing of the trials may have impacted efficacy, with Pfizer and Moderna testing its product when the COVID burden was relatively lower in parts of the world. Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca, meanwhile, had their trials later when circulation was increasing, and more transmissible variants were spreading at a rapid pace.

While that could mean the efficacy of mRNA vaccines in preventing infection is lower than 95 per cent, Chakrabarti says it doesn't change the zero hospitalizations and deaths shown in their trials.

Those will be the key numbers going forward, he says. While case numbers may continue to increase through Canada's vaccine rollout, restrictions could lift as deaths and hospitalizations drop.

"Right now we have three tools that prevent death and hospitalization that can help us get out of this situation," Chakrabarti said. "So my message is just get whichever vaccine you can get first."

Weijer says the ease of a single-dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson's could be "hugely important" for Canada's vaccine rollout. But people need to be willing to take it. "If individuals are thinking, 'Well, I'm gonna hold out for a vaccine that I perceive to be better,' that's a mistake," Weijer said. "The key is getting all of us vaccinated as quickly as possible."

# Happy 10th ANNIVERSARY

## CHEERS TO 10 YEARS!!

### PRH Stroke Prevention Clinic Celebration

March 14, 2021, marks the 10th anniversary of PRH's Stroke Prevention Clinic (SPC). The mandate of this outpatient clinic is to urgently assess patients who have experienced signs and symptoms of a recent stroke or TIA (transient ischemic attack). The goal of the clinic is to reduce the incidence of future strokes by initiating timely assessment and treatment in order to prevent a subsequent stroke. Referrals to the clinic are received from emergency room physicians, family doctors, and specialist physicians in Renfrew County and Ottawa.

The SPC nurse specialist, Lisa Keon, RN, and the medical lead, Dr. Debbie Timpson, have worked in the clinic since its inception. Karen Schaffel, the SPC clerk, is the newest addition to the team. With excellent support from our Diagnostic Imaging department, appropriate imaging is expedited. This information, along with a thorough patient history and neurologic exam, is used to confirm the stroke or TIA diagnosis.

The team works diligently to ensure that care is provided in a timely, compassionate manner and follows the Canadian Best Practice Recommendations for Stroke. When a diagnosis is made, secondary prevention is initiated, which may include prescribing a new medication and/or education on risk factor modifications. There are a variety of stroke risk factors related to diet, exercise, tobacco or alcohol use, hypertension, and other hereditary factors. Patients are also educated about calling 911 and seeking immediate medical attention if they do experience any of the warning signs of stroke.

In addition, if a patient presents with signs of stroke and after being assessed it is determined to be a "stroke mimic" (i.e. migraine, tumour, multiple sclerosis) then appropriate recommendations are provided.

The clinic has grown over the years and to date, more than 1300 patients have been assessed and more than 500 more have received follow up appointments.

The clinic is located in Tower D-Ground floor of the PRH / Phone: (613) 732-2811, extension 6640.

Fax: (613) 732-6350. Hours of operation are Mon-Wed 0800-1600 and Thurs-Fri 0800-1200.



**Lisa Keon, left, Dr. Debbie Timpson and Karen Schaffel.  
(Photo taken pre-COVID)**

## Stroke and TIA are a medical emergency!



Learn and recognize and respond immediately to any of these signs of stroke. Call 9-1-1 even if your symptoms go away.

**F**ace is it drooping?  
**A**rms can you raise both?  
**S**peech is it slurred or jumbled?  
**T**ime to call 9-1-1 right away.

# GRATITUDE

## Environmental Services

- Shout out to the **cleaners in the ED and the enhanced cleaners**. I have heard two compliments from staff members whose wives were in the ED recently and could not believe how clean the washrooms were in the ED waiting room area and how organized the cleaning process was. Great job team! Keep up the excellent work! *Dave Bromley*

- We received an email from Patty Keon on LDRP who wanted to let us know that **Julie Miller** was amazing when they called her up to LDRP because they were swamped. She cleaned three rooms for them and a bunch of equipment in a short period of time which got them back on track. *Dave Bromley*

- Feb. 10 - Celebrating **Bryan McW.** for exemplary work the last few days while he was by himself.

- Feb. 9 - Thanks to **Colleen Gruntz, Lisa Schilling, Darlene Keuhl and Bernadine Gagnon** for all their help. I wouldn't have made it through the night without your help and support. *Bryan*

- Feb. 16 - Celebrating **Tina Pettigrew and Bonnie Leeck** for unloading 28 unexpected HLS bins on Monday and moving them over to Tower D, 4th floor. HLS sent these without us ordering them and both of you went above and beyond to move them to a safe, uncongested place.

- Feb. 14 - Celebrating **Dawn Niles** for going above and beyond on cleaning in ED on her midnight shift. You did an awesome job. Thank you. *Brenda Forbes*

## AMH

- Welcome to **Cathy Blok**, new full time RPN. Thank you for coming back to join us!

- The Ottawa U nursing students and instructor are thankful to **all staff** for providing guidance and education during their psychiatric rotation.

- Celebrating **Gabrielle** - I had a very unwell client admitted and was in contact by email with Gabrielle many times with updates, and asking if she could do a few things while the client was there, as well as passing on information that may be helpful. There was great collaboration and communication between she and I and I believe this made the client's stay as successful as it was.

## Surgical

- Thanks to **Brittany** for a great job developing the orientation checklist.

- **Tracey from Housekeeping** is celebrated for communicating well with the team and for having a very positive attitude and outlook.

- **Lisa Best** is thanked for taking initiative and creating a clear on-call physician list for Surgical.

- Celebrating **Alycia (student), Kim, Patricia and Lauren** for demonstrating teamwork during increased periods of flow. (Feb. 22)

## Maternal Child Care

- Thanks to **Dr. Fadare** for always having trust in the nurses.

- Celebrating the **students - "Ellie" and Jessica**.

- The **staff who worked the weekend of March 5-7** - great teamwork. Everyone worked hard and got all the IOL done.

## Miscellaneous

- Thanks to **Kathy, Monique and all the Warehouse staff** for helping me in my first round of capital purchasing. It was intense, but everyone was very patient and supportive - answering questions, following up on quotes, explaining paperwork, etc. Thanks too, to all the managers, directors and Senior Leadership to work through the rapid deadlines with a special shout-out to IT and Maintenance. Despite a huge volume of work and COVID purchasing delays, everyone pulled together. *Jennifer Kennedy*