

# Community Connection



## Pembroke Regional Hospital Holiday 2021 Edition



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### President And CEO Offers Hope For Holiday Season



Pierre Noel

As we enter the Christmas season, I'm more hopeful than ever that things are getting back to "normal" and that our collective efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, through vaccination and continued safety measures, will allow us to spend time with family and gather in small groups for holiday celebrations.

Our region has done exceptionally well in terms of keeping the number of virus cases to a minimum and this success is a direct result of everyone doing their part to protect the health and well-being of our community, particularly the most vulnerable among us. Our hospital team continues to do its part by providing a safe environment for our patients, visitors and staff, and by supporting vaccination efforts in our region in partnership with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

As we look ahead to the New Year, there are many exciting things scheduled to take place at PRH - all of which will result in an improved patient experience for those in our care, an enhanced work

environment for our staff and physicians, and a more attractive facility to showcase as part of ongoing recruitment efforts.

Some of these include continued progress on our *Cancer Care Project* to upgrade our chemotherapy, inpatient pharmacy and medical day care spaces, ongoing work to improve wait times and patient flow in our emergency department, and a planned spring start to our long-awaited *Surgical Renovation Project*.

The year 2022 will also mark the start of preparations for a spring 2023 assessment by Accreditation Canada, an independent, not-for-profit organization that sets standards for quality and safety in healthcare. And in this newsletter, you will read the work we are doing with our health care partners to develop our region's newly-approved Ontario Health Team, a community-wide effort to provide better, more integrated and coordinated care to targeted populations in most need.

So, despite all the challenges that the past two years have brought, we still have lots to celebrate and to look forward to! Merry Christmas to all and please join me in embracing this upcoming New Year with a renewed sense of optimism and joy!

### Did You Know...

The Pembroke Regional Hospital is pleased to share that nearly 99% of its staff and 100% of onsite physicians have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in compliance with the hospital's new mandatory vaccination policy.

The policy, which took effect October 15th, is aligned with other hospitals in the region and throughout the province, and applies to staff, physicians, contractors, students and volunteers. A similar policy was also put in place for visitors and essential caregivers / care partners.

Since the start of the pandemic, our hospital has put in place precautions and safety measures to ensure the safety of those who are in our care and work in our facility.

As a health care organization, PRH has a duty and commitment to protect those vulnerable members of our community who cannot be vaccinated due to their age or medical conditions. Getting vaccinated, wearing masks, washing your hands, and physical distancing remain the most effective ways to keep everyone safe.

### Network 24 OHT Approved By Province

In mid-September, the Province of Ontario announced the latest round of approved Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), including the 'Network 24 Ontario Health Team', made up of health and social service providers in several municipalities in Renfrew County and South Algonquin Township. The "Network 24" name is temporary, with plans to select a new name in the near future.

More than 70 community health care partners in the area joined forces to develop new models of delivering timely and available patient care that 'wraps around patients and their families'. Represented among those community partners are hospitals, long-term care homes, paramedic services, municipalities, primary care providers, agencies that provide social services, palliative care, homecare, community care, mental health and addictions care, and public health — as well as patients and caregivers.

Dr. Declan Rowan, family physician leader in the Pembroke /

Petawawa area, has been very involved with the OHT development to date. He said the recent announcement marks the beginning of a process to make health care more integrated and accessible for residents.

"Having an Ontario Health Team for our area will result in a regional coordinated health care approach that will connect family physicians and their patients more effectively with hospitals, paramedics, long-term care, mental health services, community health centers, and other parts of the health care sector. We are pleased with the Province's support and we are looking forward to working with our partners in the Network 24 Ontario Health Team to deliver high-quality coordinated care to our region's residents," Dr. Rowan said.

Some of the work done to date includes development of a "collaborative decision making agreement" amongst the partners and recruitment of staff resources to advance identified priorities.

The initial focus of the Ontario Health Team will be on frail seniors and those struggling with mental health and addictions. Helping residents connect with family doctors and primary care teams is another priority.



### PRH Welcomes Urologist Dr. Anis Aziz

We're pleased to welcome Dr. Anis Aziz who recently joined the hospital's medical staff as lead of the Urology program and has taken over the practice of Dr. Jeremy Setterfield who left PRH this past summer for family-related reasons.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Aziz to our team," said Chief of Surgery Dr. Colleen Haney. "He has an excellent skill set and a wealth of experience in urology from his previous practice in Sault Ste. Marie. He is also a bow hunter which makes me optimistic that the Ottawa Valley will be an excellent fit for him!"

Urology is the branch of medicine that focuses on surgical and medical diseases of the male and female urinary-tract systems and the male reproductive organs.

Originally from Laval, Quebec, Dr. Aziz obtained his medical degree at The University of Montreal in 2004 and completed his Urology specialty at the University of Laval in 2010. His training involved Uro-Oncology, Laparoscopic Surgery and Endourology.

While a career path to medicine wasn't something he had his sights set on early in life, Dr. Aziz gravitated to the medical field and urology in particular, because he liked the quality-based aspects of the surgical specialty.

As he noted, many of the procedures he does improve the quality of life of his patients. He also enjoys the variety of work that comes with his chosen field — everything from smaller procedures to cancer treatment with a mix of open surgeries, laparoscopic procedures and more that allows him to use his vast array of skills.

With a love of outdoor activities and the proximity of the Ottawa Valley to family, Dr. Aziz said the decision to work in Pembroke at PRH was an easy one and he has been warmly welcomed and surrounded by a great team.



Dr. Anis Aziz

## COVID-19 Testing



You must call **RC VTAC** to schedule your testing time **1-844-727-6404**



## Important Information And Updates

Given the current situation, all information contained in this section is subject to change. Please visit [pembrokeregionalhospital.ca](http://pembrokeregionalhospital.ca), our PRH Facebook page or Twitter feed, or check with a member of our health care team for the most up-to-date policies and information.

### Vaccination Status Of Those In Our Care

Please be assured that, regardless of vaccination status, no patient or those requiring care or services at PRH will be denied care or turned away due to their vaccination status.

### Visitor Policy

All hospital visitors and essential caregivers / care partners need to be fully vaccinated (at least 14 days since the second dose) in order to enter the hospital, unless they qualify under one of the current exceptions as follows:

- Individuals under the age of 12.
- Those who have a documented medical exemption.
- Those visiting patients at the end-of-life.
- Labor/Delivery \* (Essential caregiver can be unvaccinated at birth.)
- Parents of children under 16 who are receiving care.
- Emergency Department (1 support person per patient.)
- Individuals who are essential to accompany patients to appointments or participate in care planning discussions.
- Other critical or urgent circumstances requiring family presence.

\* All labor and delivery visitors must be vaccinated. Those attending medical appointments, including ultrasounds, with their pregnant partner, must also be vaccinated.

All visitors and essential caregivers / care partners will be asked to show proof of vaccination along with photo ID when entering the hospital.

### Use of Masks

Everyone entering the hospital will be provided with a hospital-grade procedure mask to be worn at all times while indoors.

## COVID-19 VACCINE THIRD DOSE OR BOOSTER DOSE

December 02, 2021



### WHO IS CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE TO BOOK A THIRD DOSE OR BOOSTER DOSE?

Immunocompromised individuals and those receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) are eligible for a third dose after **8 weeks (56 days) since their second dose.**

Vulnerable older adults in congregate settings, residents 70 years of age or older, health care workers, designated essential caregivers currently working in-person in a health care organization, First Nations, Inuit and Métis adults and recipients of a viral vector vaccine or series (two doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Janssen) are eligible to receive a booster dose after **168 days since their second dose.**

### HOW CAN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS BOOK A THIRD DOSE OR BOOSTER DOSE VACCINATION APPOINTMENT?

Eligible individuals can book an appointment online by visiting <https://covid-vacc-rcvtac.mychamp.ca/>, as this is the fastest way. If someone is unable to do so online or have a family member or friend assist, they can call RCDHU at 613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004.

For the latest COVID-19 vaccine eligibility or any other related information, visit <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-rollout/>



## Health Care Together

Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation / Fondation de l'Hôpital Régional de Pembroke

www.prhfoundation

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## Catch the Ace

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WWW.PRHCATCHTHEACE.CA

We are hoping to complete Phase 1 of the Cancer Care Campaign by March 31st, 2022. Please donate if you can to help make a difference to all those who need to use the Chemotherapy and Medical Day Care Unit at the Pembroke Regional Hospital.

### YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE Cancer Care Campaign

Please complete this donation form and return it with an enclosed payment, if applicable, to **Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation at 705 Mackay St, Pembroke, ON, K8A 1G8**  
A tax receipt will be issued for gifts of \$10 or more. Charitable Registration No. 870047610RR0001

**DONOR INFORMATION**

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

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*\*Providing your email helps us to keep costs low with electronic receipting*

One-time donation of     Recurring monthly donation of

\$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     \$20    prefer to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay by:

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By selecting "Recurring Monthly Donation," you can make a gift that keeps on giving and help us purchase our highest priority needs, as we need them! For additional information please call 613-732-2811 ext. 7408 or email: [foundation@prh.email](mailto:foundation@prh.email). To make an online donation visit [www.PRHFoundation.com](http://www.PRHFoundation.com).