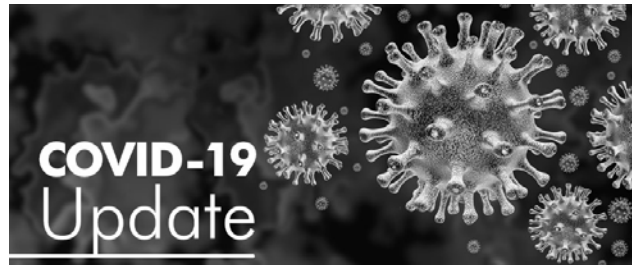


PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL



DATE: April 3rd, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update #18

Today's Take-Aways:

- In the interest of full transparency, we will now be including regular updates on the number of patients in our care who are probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19. Today's numbers are: seven probable COVID-19 cases on Medical 2A and zero confirmed COVID-19 cases on Medical 2A.
- A new staff log sheet to track those entering rooms on Medical 2A is now posted outside of patient rooms housing those who are probable or confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- A surge capacity plan for PRH is in development and will be shared organization-wide once fully reviewed and approved. Sharing this capacity plan will ensure that everyone has the same understanding of plans for capacity management. The plan will also include capacity management strategies for palliative care and mental health services.
- PRH is now represented on a community-based palliative care committee which is looking at how palliative care can be handled, primarily in the community, for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 cases.
- The following are the current guidelines regarding the safe return to work for staff members who are off work as a result of recent travel, are exhibiting specified symptoms, or were in close contact with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient:

Travel:

- Staff returning from travel outside Canada – *Asymptomatic*: mandatory self-isolation for 14 days prior to return to work.
- Staff returning from travel outside Canada – *Symptoms develop within the 14 days of self isolation*: mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from date of return to Canada **and** employee must have a negative swab test and be 24 hours symptom-free prior to return to work.

No Travel – But Symptomatic:

- Staff will be directed to go home and self-isolate.

- Staff will be swab tested and must have a negative swab test **and** be 24 hours symptom-free prior to return to work.

Close Contact with a confirmed COVID patient:

- With appropriate PPE: remain at work.
- Without appropriate PPE – *Asymptomatic*: mandatory self-isolation for 14 days prior to return to work and mandatory self monitoring.
- Without appropriate PPE – *Symptoms develop within the 14 days of self isolation*: mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from date of contact **and** employee must have a negative swab test and be 24 hours symptom-free prior to return to work.

Close Contact with a suspected COVID patient (pending results of patient's test)

- With appropriate PPE: remain at work.
- Without appropriate PPE – *Asymptomatic*:
 - Until patient test results come back: remain at work, with mandatory self-monitoring.
 - If patient's test result comes back positive – follow protocol for Close Contact with a confirmed COVID patient (point 3, above).
 - If patient's test result comes back negative – remain at work.
- Without appropriate PPE – *Symptoms develop during period of self-monitoring*:
 - Until patient test results come back: self-isolate and continue to self-monitor.
 - If patient's test result comes back positive – follow protocol for Close Contact with a confirmed COVID patient (point 3, above).
 - If patient's test result comes back negative – follow protocol for No Travel, but Symptomatic (point 2, above).

Testing: If there is a positive COVID-19 result with a patient or a staff member, Public Health will direct staff with respect to self-isolating and testing. Occupational Health and IPAC may assist Public Health with testing for staff. In order to expedite the return to work for staff members who are symptomatic, Occupational Health has started swab testing those staff on-site. Staff and inpatient swab tests are considered high priority so there is a turnaround time of approximately 24 hours.

- A reminder to staff to have their ID badges handy when going through screening at any of our entrances in case you are asked to show it.
- The Human Resources working group wants you to know that intensive recruitment efforts continue. Here are the recruitment successes in response to Covid-19 to-date:

- Infection Control Screener and Runners – 20 hires
- Clinical Care Assistants – 6 hires
- Respiratory Therapists – 3 hires
- Staffing and Scheduling – 1 hire
- Environmental Services – 2 hires

Recruitment is ongoing for many of these positions.

- A reminder to all staff that all community donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) (such as gloves, masks, gowns, etc.) are to be dropped off at the

Pembroke Fire Hall (200 International Drive, off Boundary Road in Pembroke). Items can be dropped off there 24/7. If anyone has questions about donations of equipment, other items for staff etc. please direct them to contact Carolyn Levesque, Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator: (613) 732-3675, extension 6165 / carolyn.levesque@prh.email

- The hospital's website has been updated with a more comprehensive COVID-19 link from the home page.
- Renfrew County numbers remain the same with seven laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 and one death to date. There have been 419 people tested in Renfrew County, with 163 still under investigation. For the latest Renfrew County information on COVID-19 please visit www.rcdhu.com.
- In Ontario, as of April 3rd, there have been 3,255 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19. There have been 67 deaths and 1,023 cases have been resolved. A total of 462 patients are hospitalized, 194 of those in ICU and 140 of those on ventilator. A total of 66,753 people have been tested and 1,245 remain under investigation. For up-to-date information on provincial COVID-19 statistics, please visit www.ontario.ca.
- For all COVID-19 related questions, please be sure to email them to **covid19questions@prh.email** rather than sending them directly to Infection Prevention and Control. Before you send a question, check the Staff Resources section of our website (pembrokeregionalhospital.ca) to see if the question you are asking has already been asked and answered. Questions and answers are posted and organized by date.

Need information, assistance or have suggestions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Infection Prevention and Control at extension 7106 or Occupational Health and Safety at extension 7202 or your immediate supervisor.

If you have any suggestions on COVID-19 preparation, please bring these forward at your huddles or to your supervisor.

Recognizing the stress and anxiety that a situation like this can bring about, we remind you that our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has experts available to help by calling 1-844-880-9142 or visiting their website at www.worklifehealth.com.

Mental health workers are now offering free therapy to Ontario's frontline COVID-19 staff. For more information visit <https://covid19therapists.com/>.