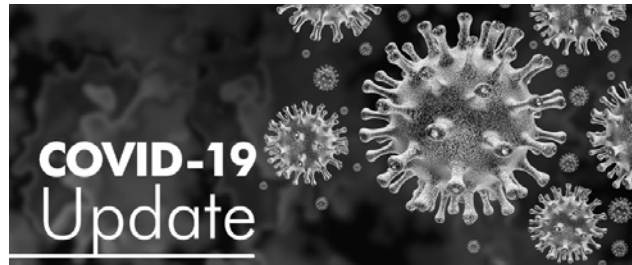


# PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL



**DATE:** April 8th, 2020

**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Update #21

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**Today's Take-Aways:**

- As part of our regular updates on the number of patients in our care who are probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19, here are today's numbers: six probable COVID-19 cases on Medical 2A and one probable COVID-19 case in ICU; no confirmed COVID-19 cases at PRH.

- Please note that centralized command structures using an Incident Management System continue to evolve and to be better aligned at both the provincial and regional levels. Our hospital's internal Incident Management System continues to be fully aligned with the Ottawa regional structure which, in turn, is fully aligned with the provincial coordinating command structure of the Ministry of Health, Ontario Health and Public Health Ontario.

- In response to direction from Ontario Health to retain used PPE for potential reprocessing, our clinical units now have PPE collection stations for goggles, N95 masks, surgical masks and face shields.

Goggles are to be washed and reused. Masks and face shields are being collected and stored until further direction from Ontario Health on reprocessing has been received.

Some key reminders for N95 and Surgical Masks include: ensure a label is affixed to the bottom loop of the mask that identifies your name and unit. Labels can be obtained from any clinical department unit clerk. When finished with the mask, ensure that it is placed in a zip lock biohazard bag and placed in the designated bucket on a clinical unit.

It is important to ensure that waste, such as paper towels, gloves and other items meant for the garbage, is not put into the buckets as this may compromise and impact on our ability to store and conserve individual masks.

Standard Work for this can be found in policy medical by searching "PPE Collection Station".

- Please note that a new comprehensive document on Personal Protective Equipment will be issued to all staff and physicians on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Phase one of our surge capacity plan for probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 requiring acute care at Pembroke Regional Hospital has now been completed. This plan details the possible future expansion of our bed capacity by 15 beds and the use of units beyond Medical 2A for COVID-19 patients if required.
- Effective immediately, in an effort to reduce workload on laboratory staff and reduce traffic throughout the building, LDRP nurses will be completing bloodwork for newborns (Newborn Screening and Bilirubins). EORLA staff will be responsible for training LDRP staff. Staff training is ongoing so there may be some overlap in services until all staff is trained. Supplies will be stored in the medication room.
- Please note that the COVID-19 screening tool has now been revised to include a question on symptoms of diarrhea and vomiting. Should a patient now present in the Emergency Department with diarrhea and vomiting they will immediately be placed on droplet contact precautions until a further assessment has been completed.
- Ottawa police are warning the public about a new phishing scam that preys on people's fears during the COVID-19 pandemic. This scam involves receipt of an email from someone claiming to be an employee of The Ottawa Hospital and indicating to the recipient that they have been identified as having come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The email asks the recipient to print an attached form and proceed to the nearest emergency clinic. The public is being warned that this is not legitimate and further warns the public to be wary of opening attachments and links of this nature.
- In Renfrew County there have been 12 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 and one death to date. There have been 598 people tested, with 163 still under investigation. For the latest Renfrew County information on COVID-19, please visit [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com).
- In Ontario, as of today, there have been 5,276 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19. There have been 174 deaths and 2,074 cases have been resolved. A total of 605 patients are hospitalized, 246 of those in ICU and 195 of those on ventilator. A total of 84,601 people have been tested and 1,102 remain under investigation. For up-to-date information on provincial COVID-19 statistics, please visit [www.ontario.ca](http://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](http://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](http://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/>.

