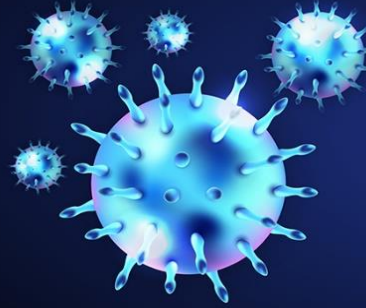


Tuesday, March 24, 2020



HDS CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 BULLETIN

THANK YOU FROM OUR BOARD FOR YOUR EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS

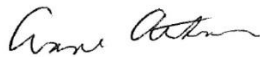
Those who have a positive impact on us enable us to achieve our full potential and influence others, and there is no industry where this is more important than healthcare. The work of everyone at Hotel Dieu Shaver makes me realize just how lucky Niagara is to have you as part of the community.

Your abilities, commitment and compassion to do "right" by all those you serve is especially evident during this pandemic. There is a selflessness and sensibility not found anywhere else except by those who care for people when they are at their most vulnerable. I am grateful for your insights, your passion and the way you whole-heartedly contribute.

I know this time of uncertainty is particularly difficult, and that just makes your dedication to patients, to HDS and to Niagara all the more admirable. Thanks for your expertise, your hard work, and the sacrifices you're making to ensure the health and safety of our community.

Your work is extremely important and extremely appreciated – now and always.

Best regards,



Anne Atkinson
Chair, Board of Trustees

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND IMPLEMENTATION OF “PROTECTED” CODE BLUE: MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF NURSING OFFICER

As the battle with the COVID-19 virus continues throughout Canada and beyond, I wanted to provide you all with the latest updates regarding the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The current scientific evidence supports that contact droplet precautions are the most appropriate method for protecting staff and physicians against COVID-19. As such, Public Health Ontario has directed Ontario Hospitals to follow these precautions.

In the event that Public Health Ontario adjusts their recommendations regarding the use of PPE, the Hospital will update our protocols.

In an effort to protect our staff, physicians and patients the clinical managers are tirelessly reviewing scientific literature, as well as monitoring announcements from Public Health Ontario. I can appreciate these are times full of uncertainty; however, know that your safety is our priority.

There have been a lot of inquiries from staff regarding the use of face protection within health care settings. Please know that the Hospital will continue to follow the directions of Public Health Ontario with respect to the use of both N95 and surgical masks.

Please note the following:

- **For all patients undergoing Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) precautions to include Droplet Contact: N95 respirator, face shield and impervious gown and gloves.**

What is an AGMP?

- Intubation and related upper airway procedures (e.g. manual ventilation, open endotracheal suctioning).
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Bronchoscopy
- Upper GI endoscopy
- Sputum induction
- Non-invasive ventilation (i.e. BiPAP)
- Open respiratory/airway suctioning
- High frequency oscillatory ventilation
- Tracheostomy care
- High flow heated humidity oxygen therapy devices (eg. AIRVO, Optiflow)
- Other procedures not historically considered AGMP but may be considered AGMP for this purpose (e.g. upper GI endoscopy)

Additional Precautions at HDS

- The Hospital has contacted Dr. Hirji, the Medical Director of Health for the Niagara Region, for clarification of precautions regarding continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machines. Until such time that direction is provided, staff are directed to use N95 respirators when providing care to a patient actively using their CPAP.
- Staff are directed to use N95 respirators when performing nasopharyngeal swab (np swabs).
- The Hospital has decided to implement a "Protected Code Blue". For all incidents of Code Blue situations (vital signs absent), staff are to use the enhanced protocol as outlined on the last page of this bulletin.

Surgical Masks

Please also be assured that there has been continuing review among hospitals regionally and provincially regarding the appropriate use of surgical masks for staff and physicians. Provincial experts have been participating in this dialogue at both provincial and regional tables. At this point, the current direction remains unchanged. In the event that there is a change in direction, we will communicate as quickly as we can.

Feel free to visit the Infection Control Website on ESPAN for additional resources on COVID-19. Please contact management if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hansen
Chief Nursing Officer

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS PROGRAMS REMAIN OPEN

COVID-19 has impacted people in varying ways and it is understandable that during times like this, people may be feeling worried, anxious and overwhelmed.

For those staying at home practicing social distancing and self-isolation, stay in touch with them, and tell them to reach out if they need support.

If you would like to know more about mental health and addiction resources across Niagara Region, call the **Access Line at 1-866-550-5205**.

For children, youth and families across Niagara Region, counselling and supports are offered 24/7 through the **Crisis Line at 1-800-263-4944**.

If you are in crisis and just need to talk with someone, call **COAST Niagara 1-866-550-5205**.

If you or your loved one is experiencing any of the following mental health and addiction emergencies, we encourage you to go to the nearest Emergency Department. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or are unable to get to the hospital safely (for example if you have taken an overdose), stay home and call 9-1-1.

- Thinking about hurting others or have hurt someone
- Experiencing voices commanding you to hurt yourself or others
- Making choices that put you in serious danger
- Not being able to care for yourself, which puts you at risk
- Experiencing serious medication side effects such as swollen tongue, difficulty swallowing, unusual eye movements, severe muscle rigidity, etc.
- Thinking about or have taken a drug overdose
- Consuming excessive quantities of alcohol and combining this with prescription or other medications.

COFFEE SHOP HOURS

As mentioned in a previous bulletin, the coffee shop hours are limited without our volunteers. However, Food Services staff will be available to offer some hours each day.

Effective Thursday, March 26, the *Dieu Drop In* café will be open as follows:

Monday to Friday

9:30am - 10:30am & 11:15am - 1:30pm

There will be a limited menu. However, staff will accommodate if possible. **Food is available for take-away only.**

SARANCHUK BOARDROOM (INPATIENT BUILDING) TO BE LOCKED

- The Saranchuk Boardroom (Ground Floor Boardroom, Inpatient Building) is going to be kept locked.
- It will be opened for daily conference call meetings.
- Staff in Environmental Services will sanitize it before each meeting.
- Users can continue to book the Boardroom through Dennis Sawyer as per usual.
- Janice Latam has been issued a key for the Boardroom in the event that it needs to be opened for unanticipated use.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Some other good reference material:

- [Niagara Region Public Health](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada information on Coronaviruses](#)
- [Government of Ontario - Wuhan Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCOv\)](#)
- [Latest travel advice](#)

OUR COMMITMENT

- We continue to be deeply committed to keeping our patients and each other safe.
- We continue to monitor this ever-changing situation with our health partners, adding necessary precautions as appropriate. Much like our health partners, we are acting on the best advice of the Province's Chief Medical Officer of Health and other leading public health officials.
- Thanks for your ongoing co-operation and tireless dedication.

[#WeAreHDS](#)

Protected Code Blue (PCB)

PCB: First Responder Protocol

1. There is a Code Blue situation.
Code Blue: a person in an immediate or imminent cardiac / respiratory arrest - vital signs absent.
2. Call for help. Activate Protected Code Blue.
 - Active the call bell system.
 - Dial “0” for Switchboard. Identify there is a Protected Code Blue and the location. OR
 - Dial 22999 and announce “Protected Code Blue and location”. Repeat 3x.
3. **There shall be a maximum of four (4) responders to participate in the Protected Code Blue.** Any additional responders should leave the scene.
4. Place oxygen by mask on the victim at the highest liter volume available (up to 15L). If not available, place a surgical droplet mask on patient. Go get your personal protective equipment.
5. Don droplet precaution personal protective equipment (p.p.e). You can find the below p.p.e on the code blue carts, in a bag near the bottom of the cart. **Note:** gloves are located outside of patient rooms on the nursing units.
 - N95 mask - size per fit test.
 - Gown
 - Gloves
 - Goggles – these are reusable, clean with OXIVIR and place back on cart.
6. If no pulse, apply AED check for shockable rhythm. Follow instructions of AED.
7. ONLY if all in room are wearing N95 respirator / eye protection / gown / gloves, can add additional:
 - If no pulse, initiate chest compressions.
8. Do not perform the following:
 - Mouth-to-mouth ventilation
 - Bag-valve-mask ventilation
9. Upon conclusion of Code Blue – “all clear”:
 - Doff PPE
 - Gloves (perform hand hygiene)
 - Gown (perform hand hygiene)
 - Goggles - clean with OXIVIR and place back on cart.
 - N95 mask
 - Inform Clinical Manager of need to restock the cart.