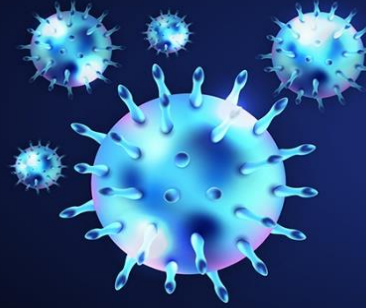


Wednesday, March 25, 2020



## HDS CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 BULLETIN

### MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM CEO

Hello everyone –

I am writing to thank you again for your continuing commitment to each other and our patients. I am also writing to advise that the senior team is present at HDS and will continue to be here with you every day.

We are very sorry that all of you are facing these uncertain times. We want to assure you that:

- We are monitoring developments around the clock.
- We are adhering to directions from Ontario Public Health.
- As and if direction changes, we will continue to communicate that new information to you as quickly as possible.

We are aware that there is angst with respect to PPE and its utilization. Again, we are adhering to direction from Ontario Public Health. Our focus is ensuring that PPE is utilized in circumstances where we are advised that it is effective so that everyone is as safe as possible and that our inventory is not inappropriately or prematurely depleted. We commit to you that we are doing our best to keep you as current as possible and will continue to do so to ensure, to the best of our ability, that you, our patients, and all of our families stay safe.

Please continue to monitor the COVID -19 updates which we will update and circulate as often as possible.

We can and will get through this together.

Most sincerely,



Lynne Pay  
Interim CEO and  
Vice-President, Corporate Services

## MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS REGARDING PPE & ADMITTING PATIENTS FROM NIAGARA HEALTH

As we continue to see an increase in COVID-19 activity in Niagara, it is increasingly important that we use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriately to keep everyone safe – our staff, physicians and our patients.

If we do not conserve PPE now, we could face shortages when we need it most.

### **SURGICAL MASKS**

We are continuing to adhere to Ontario Public Health directions with regard to all PPE including surgical masks. Additionally, we continue to receive regular updates and are working with all hospitals in our region to coordinate a consistent approach for the use of surgical masks based on these directions.

We are working diligently to secure more PPE supplies. In the meantime, we will prioritize the use of what we have. We need everyone's help to do this, and we are asking all of you to think of each other's safety and the need to maintain appropriate supplies of PPE.

Your PPE use should be guided by the organization's Infection Prevention and Control policies and efforts to help conserve our supply and keep this scarce resource available for use throughout the pandemic. This will maximize safety while effecting good stewardship of PPE – preventing unnecessary waste.

We will continue to assess our current stock, utilization rate and predicted need, and we will update our guidelines as circumstances change. Our most important priority is to have the resources to keep you and our patients safe.

#### ***How you can help preserve surgical masks:***

- Isolation precautions will be removed as quickly and as appropriately as possible.
- Limit the number of people who enter a room where a patient has precautions. This will help reduce PPE use.

***Changing of surgical masks in circumstances where a surgical mask is required.*** The mask must be discarded if it:

- becomes wet, moist, torn, soiled or damaged
- makes contact with the patient

Contact Nursing Management for further direction if you have any questions. Proper donning and doffing of PPE (masks) including hand hygiene must occur after handling the used mask to avoid self-contamination.

### **ADMITTING PATIENTS FROM NIAGARA HEALTH**

- HDS is not admitting COVID-19 positive patients. All COVID-19 positive patients within the Niagara Region are being cared for at Niagara Health's St. Catharines site.
- Patients admitted to HDS are not being transferred from Niagara Health's designated COVID-19 unit.
- Upon admission at HDS, patients received from a COVID-19 floor will be placed in 72-hour droplet contact isolation, as an added precaution, even though they were not in COVID-19 isolation at Niagara Health.

## **NO CURRENT COVID-19 PATIENTS AT HDS**

Lab results on a fourth patient at HDS have now been received. All lab results have returned negative. As a result, we do not have any current positive or suspected COVID-19 patients at HDS.

Please be assured that we will provide updates as the situation evolves.

Thank you for all of your support, feedback and advice as we continue to work through Hotel Dieu Shaver's response to COVID-19.

Best regards,



David Ceglie  
Interim Executive Vice-President of Operations

## **STAFF RE-DEPLOYMENT AS PART OF COVID-19 RESPONSE**

As many of you are aware, the provincial government has announced that a temporary order has been issued allowing, among other things, re-deployment of staff within the hospital as necessary to assist with the COVID-19 response.

HDS continues to hear suggestions from staff as to ways that we can best meet this challenge.

**For example**, a number of allied health staff have volunteered to assist with daily cleaning in high touch areas within the outpatient facility. It should be reinforced that our cleaning contractors are very diligent in meeting IPAC guidelines and do continue to clean the outpatient building on a nightly basis. Our own staff continue to perform an exemplary job in the inpatient building.

Some staff have offered to reinforce those efforts with additional cleaning in the outpatient building during the day, when our contracted cleaners are not present.

Shawn Bolger, our Manager of Housekeeping, as organized through Chris Pollard and Jeane Davis-Fyfe, will meet with volunteer staff to share a training program with them. Thank you again to everyone for stepping above and beyond during these challenging times.

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

Some other 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](#)