

Weekly Physician COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Cases at a Glance (HHS)

Site	Number of Positive Cases
HGH	44
JH	42
MUMC	2
St. Peter's	0
WLMH	0
SHF	0
Rehab	0
Total	88

*updated morning of distribution

Whenever possible, please try and restrict movement between sites / areas. Understanding this may not always be possible across all areas / disciplines.

COVID-19 Wards

HGH – 5 West (19 Patients)

JH – F5 (27 Patients)

*updated morning of distribution

COVID-19 ICUs

HGH – ICU (20 Patients)

JH – ICU (14 Patients)

*updated morning of distribution

Critical Care Support

HGH ICU has current capacity for 34 COVID patients, with ability to increase to 41 and beyond if needed

JHCC ICU has current capacity for 26 COVID patients, with ability to increase if needed

HIU has 12 ICU beds at present. BTU and PACU and HGH opening to manage non-COVID ICU patients

Protected Code Blue Team

The PCB Code Blue Team has expanded to provide coverage 24/7 at both HGH and JH

NOTE: Activating PCB means that **all physicians at HGH and JH will not be permitted to submit G-code modifier**. Please see the excerpt from the MOH funding guidelines below. The G-code modifier is applicable at sites not supported by PCB:

New Funding Alternative – In-Hospital Protected or Pre-Emptive Protected Code Blue

The ministry is also providing a new option for hospitals as an alternative to reactivating their Protected Code Blue or Pre-Emptive Protected Code Blue response team funding.

Hospitals will now have the option to have physicians receive a 30% payment modifier on three Critical Care fee codes G521, G522 and G523 (G-codes) *instead of* activating the Protected Code Blue or Pre-Emptive Protected Code Blue response team funding, under the terms of the earlier Phase 2 agreement.

The G-code modifier will be payable to physicians who perform these services in the hospital for patients requiring resuscitation including endotracheal intubation who are COVID-19 positive or who are treated as at-risk of being COVID-19 positive under local hospital policy.

Physician Redeployment

The decision to launch enhanced medical support will be a collaboration among physician leaders and administrators of a specific unit/department. Final approval must be obtained by the CME and SMO.

MOH Compensation for Non-Clinical COVID-19 Activity

NEW

Funds have been received from the Ministry of Health for hours submitted for the month of **January**. Medical Affairs will begin issuing payment for those hours over the next two weeks.

If you have any questions related to payment or account deposits – please email Lori Arbeau at arbealor@hhsc.ca

If you have any questions related to amount to be paid – please email Quinn Kolthof at kolthof@hhsc.ca

Reminder: Please submit May hours by June 10th

**Please see attachment “Funding Application for COVID-19 Non-Clinical Work”*

Vaccination Updates

Vaccine Timeline (Presented by Bruce Squires)

Vaccinations Numbers Update

- **Ontario: 6 491 666** doses administered with 402 258 Ontarians fully immunized
- **Hamilton: 224 214** doses administered including 75 960 at the HHS fixed clinic

Vaccination Program Province – Wide

- **Pediatric Strategy:** province announced that youth aged 12 – 17 will be eligible as of June 1st and 1st doses by June 30th and 2nd doses by August 22nd
- **Pausing AstraZeneca:** Ontario is pausing the rollout and administration of 1st doses of AstraZeneca vaccine out of an abundance of caution due to observed increase in the rare blood clotting condition
- Provincial government announced **High-Risk care workers will be eligible to receive a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine a shortened interval**
 - List of High-Risk health care workers who will be eligible for shortened second-dose interval can be found on covid-19.ontario.ca
 - HHS is working with its partners to implement decision as soon as possible

HHS Role

- Public Health will send weekly vaccine allocations for admitted patients starting May 20th
- Hospital run mobile clinics will be held on Thursdays at the JH and the SHF and Fridays at the HGH and St. Peter's
- The focus will be to vaccinate patients that are ALC to LTC, retirement home and congregate settings
- For all other patient populations, the pharmacy will collect a list of inpatients requesting a vaccine and if there are doses available, we will work to vaccinate
- If patients are requesting vaccines and not vaccinated in hospital, please ensure they have the required information to get booked at a community clinic of their choice

HHS Staff

- HHS **required** to follow provincial direction on dose interval – regardless of role and work location
- HHS staff / physicians, including those who are pregnant, and want to be vaccinated can register on the [SJHH/HHS Online Tool](#)

- Registration provides ability to book through provincial Vaccine Appointment Booking System along with other eligible populations
- Being vaccinated does not mean anyone at HHS can relax their PPE and distancing practices

VACCINATION SIGN UP VIA [SJHH/HHS Online Tool](#)

PHYSICIANS MAY USE “0” AS ID NUMBER IF THEY DO NOT HAVE AN HHS ID

CONSENT please bring completed Consent Form (along with Health Card and Hospital ID) to your vaccination appointment. Please find Consent Form [HERE](#)

City Vaccine Hotline (905) – 974 – 9848

Updated FAQ Vaccine Document [HERE](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine After Care Sheet [HERE](#)

Additional COVID-19: Safety, Screening, Reporting, and Vaccinations Info [HERE](#)

HHS HUB News

Highlights from Town Hall (Thursday May 13th):

Operational Update (Presented by Sharon Pierson)

- Regional transfers related to COVID-19 slowing down: as of May 9th:
 - 265 HNHBB (6 more since last week)
 - 88 HHS (4 more since last week)
- Continuing to receive patients who need access to our specialized regional programs
- Critical Care Capacity:
 - Maintaining additional 36 ICU beds above normal complement of 88 (126 in total)
 - Plans in place if more ICU beds needed to support system partners – some optimism that this will not be needed
- Total patients in ICU – 93
- Patients with COVID-19 in the ICU – 34
- Outbreaks ongoing at JH and St. Peter’s
- Continuing to maximize SHF capacity and work with HCC to support expedited access to LTC
- Very early planning for return of approximately 240 staff to their ‘home’ programs
- Mobile Health Unit Update on [our website](#)

Epidemiology Update (Presented by Dr. Dominik Mertz)

National

- AB still at the highest rate of infection – but they do look to be past the peak

Provincial

- Cases continuing to decrease
- Hospital admissions over the last 3 weeks have seen a steady decrease in the number of cases
- ICU admissions are now slowly starting to decrease and modelling indicates positive trajectory for ICU's in Ontario

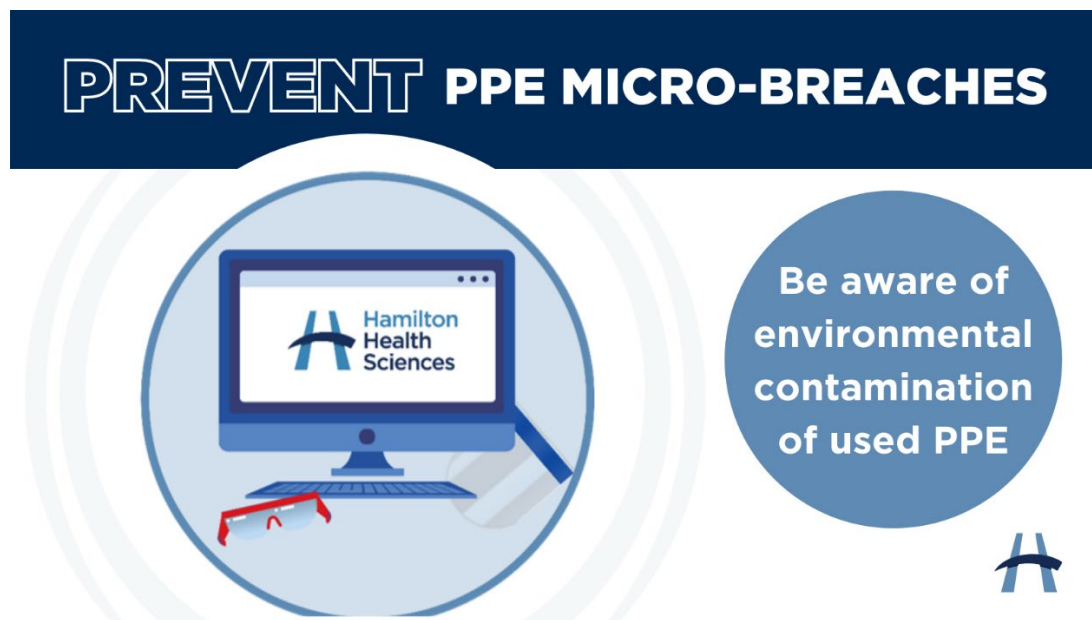
Regional

- Peak occurred 2 weeks after Easter and cases started to decrease shortly after peak
- Not as quickly as hoped but trend is heading in a good direction
- Hospital and ICU admissions are coming down similar to province

Link to Town Hall (Thursday, May 13th) [HERE](#)

*all figures are representative of the time of Town Hall presentation / recording

COVID-19 Policies to Review



Additional Information

Project Odyssey Update

Dr. Barry Lumb provides a monthly audio update on project status and a short video launches an education series about how EPIC will improve the work experience – listen to the audio clip, watch the video and follow the Project Odyssey Newsletter [HERE](#)

Updated: Resilience Support Toolkit

Updated resilience support materials including posters and videos are now available for leaders, staff and physicians

For more information access the Toolkit [HERE](#)

NEW: Virtual Care Orientation for Providers & Administrative/Clerk Support – Now Available!

The Virtual Care Operations Team is excited to announce the launch of virtual care orientation sessions. There are two offerings available on an alternating rotation:

1. Virtual Care Orientation for Providers: designed for those providing care to patients (e.g. physicians, nursing, allied health, residents, etc.)
2. Virtual Care Orientation for Administrative Support: designed for any administrative roles providing support to the process (e.g. booking clerks, business clerks, system navigators, medical secretaries, etc.)

Leaders are also welcome to attend either session. For more information, including dates and how to register, please email VirtualCare@HHSC.CA or visit [The Hub](#)

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