



## Department of Medical Affairs

### Weekly Physician COVID-19 Updates

#### COVID-19 Cases at a Glance (HHS)

Site	Number of Positive Cases
HGH	6
JH	4
MUMC	0
St. Peter's	0
WLMH	0
SHF	0
Rehab	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

\*updated morning of distribution

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#### COVID-19 Wards

HGH – 5 West **(1 Patient)**

JH – F5 **(2 Patients)**

\*updated morning of distribution

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#### COVID-19 ICUs

HGH – ICU **(2 Patients)**

JH – ICU **(0 Patients)**

\*updated morning of distribution

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#### MOH Compensation for Non-Clinical COVID-19 Activity

If you have any questions related to payment or account deposits – please email Lori Arbeau at [arbealor@hhsc.ca](mailto:arbealor@hhsc.ca)

If you have any questions related to amount to be paid – please email Quinn Kolthof at [kolthof@hhsc.ca](mailto:kolthof@hhsc.ca)

**Reminder: Please submit June hours by August 10<sup>th</sup>**

*\*Please see attachment "Funding Application for COVID-19 Non-Clinical Work"*

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## Vaccination Updates



**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](#)**

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## HHS HUB News

**Highlights from Town Hall (Thursday July 8th)**

**Operational Update (Presented by Sharon Pierson)**

... a slow return to our new normal

- ED volumes are slowly returning to pre-COVID-19 volumes
- ALC volumes are increasing
- Labor and delivery volumes are increasing
  - First quarter of 2021, there were 1057 deliveries which represents 14% increase over the last year
  - June saw 367 deliveries – an all-time record month

- Work is ongoing to identify mechanisms to optimize care models and utilization of space
- Critical care capacity is stabilizing
  - ICU occupancy remains high
  - \*Patients with COVID-19 / CRCI in the ICU – 12
- \*Ward level COVID-19 patients – 2
- \*Number of patients on ECMO – 6
- \*Number of out of region patients still in our care – 6
- Staff are returning to their home units, process started on July 5<sup>th</sup> and is continuing:
  - 258 staff have returned so far
  - 20 more staff will return to their home units in the next 7 days
  - 17 staff will remain redeployed at this time
- Urgent care center opening planning in progress
- West Lincoln OB plans in development
- Surgeries and procedures continuing with resumption
- Ramp up plans submitted to Ontario West and call for proposals for innovation funding to address backlog
- Assessment center at West End Clinic is shutting down as of July 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Communication occurring this week which outlines implications for staff needing to be tested
- Mobile Health Unit is being decommissioned over the summer
  - Thank you to everyone who helped construct, staff and equip this state of the art unit, we are proud to be a part of this pandemic response initiative
  - The Wellington lot will be accessible for parking again in September, timing will be communicated this summer

## **Epidemiology Update (Presented by Dr. Dominik Mertz)**

### **National**

- Most provinces cases have decreased by roughly 50% (not quite as much in ON but still much lower)
- Yukon is still seeing higher rates of infection
- Alberta / Quebec are re-opening and will monitor to see how / if this effects their number of cases

### **Provincial**

- Plateau and low case rates currently
- Hospital admissions are now similar to July of 2020
- Vast majority of COVID-19 related cases in hospital remain in ICU (almost nil on wards) – this is higher than the numbers last summer
- Modelling from June 2021 indicates that we are currently doing better than predicted (Delta variant part of that consideration)
- Continue to vaccinate at very high rate
- Non – low epidemiology in Ontario:
  - Grey Bruce Health Unit
  - Region of Waterloo

### **Regional**

- Similar numbers of infection as seen last summer

- Hospital infection is similar to last year but still have higher numbers in ICU
- Currently seeing low epidemiology
- Additional information at [www.Ontario.ca/reopen](http://www.Ontario.ca/reopen)

#### **Variants of Concern**

- Vaccines are highly effective against hospitalization from Delta variant
- Analysis suggests:
  - Pfizer vaccine is 96% effective against hospitalization after 2 doses
  - Astra-Zeneca is 92% effective against hospitalization after 2 doses
- These are comparable with vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization from the Alpha variant
- Delta variant is now responsible for 80% of current cases and expect to see increase as we continue to reopen

Link to Town Hall (Thursday, July 8th) [HERE](#)

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

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## **Additional Information**

### **Ontario Moving to Step Three of Roadmap to Reopen on July 16**

With key public health and health care indicators continuing to improve and the province wide vaccination rate surpassing the targets outlined in the province's [Roadmap to Reopen](#), in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health the Ontario government is moving the province into Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021. Read more [HERE](#)

### **Federal Changes to International Travel Requirements**

[The federal government has now eased travel restrictions](#) for fully vaccinated travelers who are permitted to enter Canada. If an individual has been fully vaccinated for greater than two weeks, they will not be subject to the federal requirements to quarantine when entering/returning to Canada. Read more about the [impact of these changes for HHS healthcare workers](#).

### **West End Assessment Centre to Close**

With a continued decline in daily COVID-19 cases and outbreaks, the need for COVID-19 testing has also declined. Effective **July 15, 2021** the West End Assessment Centre, 690 Main St. West (operated by Hamilton Health Sciences) will be permanently closed. Read more [HERE](#)

### **Dr. Ralph Meyer to Retire in November**

We are at once delighted and disheartened to inform you that Dr. Ralph Meyer, Hamilton Health Sciences' (HHS) Vice President, Oncology and Palliative Care and Regional Vice President for Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario/CCO), has announced his intention to retire in November. Read more [HERE](#)

## **Project Odyssey Update**

### **NEW Odyssey provider update deck now available**

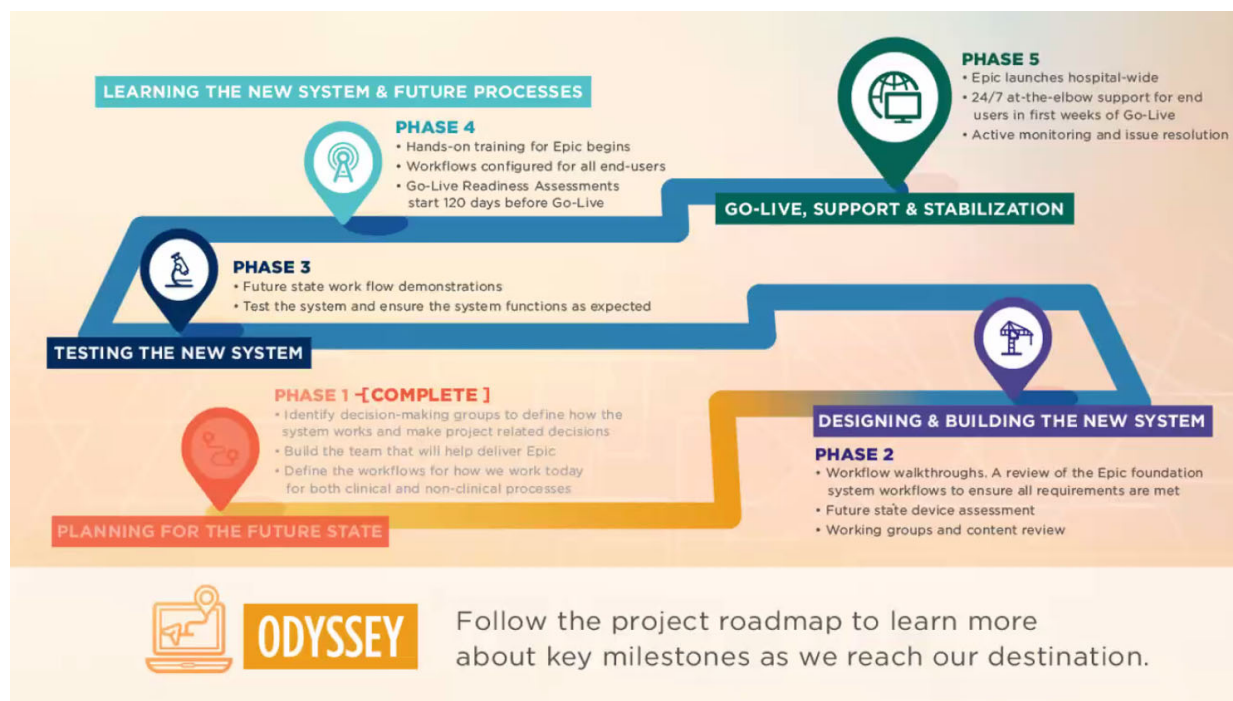
The **Odyssey provider update deck** for July is available to download and use to share updates with your colleagues.

[View/download on the Hub.](#)

Questions or suggestions for future decks? Contact Alexandra Macgregor at [macgregora@hhsc.ca](mailto:macgregora@hhsc.ca)


### **Check out the latest Odyssey Newsletter**

HHS patient advisor Rita Pugliese believes Epic will be “game-changing” patients and caregivers. Find out why and catch up on other Odyssey news in the [latest edition of the Odyssey newsletter](#).



- Phase 2 – design and build coming to close next month
- Conducting walkthroughs to review device placement
- Plan to begin deploying equipment from August / September through January
- Key clinical validation activities happening with leaders
- Super Users – more details coming soon

- All staff, physicians and learners will need to be trained on EPIC before go-live
- Full training and support system includes credentialed trainers, specialty trainers and super users
- Super users support EPIC end users before, during and after go-live
- More information about super users and other training roles will come later this month



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