

Weekly Physician COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Cases at a Glance (HHS)

Site	Number of Positive Cases
HGH	12
JH	16
MUMC	0
St. Peter's	1
WLMH	1
SHF	0
Rehab	0
Total	30

*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 Dedicated Wards

HGH – 5 West (5 Patients)

JH – F5 (11 Patients)

*updated morning of distribution

COVID-19 Dedicated ICUs

HGH – ICU South (6 Patients)

JH – Level 1 ICU (4 Patients)

*updated morning of distribution

Critical Care Support

- ICU South continues to have an on-site intensivist at night who will respond to Code Blue calls
 - JH ICU continues to have a PCB physician at night who will respond to Code Blue calls
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Physician Redeployment

There is **no identified date to ramp down elective and/or scheduled activity**. Should there be consideration of a ramp down and subsequent redeployment – Medical Affairs will work with physicians to identify opportunities for appropriate redeployment.

MOH Compensation for Non-Clinical COVID-19 Activity

January Submissions Closed

February Hours – please submit hours by March 10th

Submit to Medical Affairs: Tanya Roglich (email on form) or directly to Quinn Kolthof kolthof@hhsc.ca

**Please find Submission Form Attached*

NOTE: awaiting funds to arrive for hours submitted September – November 2020. Once funds are received we will email all those that have been approved and with amount expected to be deposited. Expect to receive these funds within the next couple of weeks (perhaps sooner).

Questions about payments can be forwarded to Lori Arbeau arbealor@hhsc.ca

Vaccination Updates

NEW

Second Dose Updates:

- Fixed vaccination clinic has resumed the administration of second doses for approximately 2900 HCW, including those from Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Hamilton. These are taking place this week between February 10th and 14th
- Planning is underway for resumption of first doses for health care workers. The Province has **not yet** give direction to resume first does for health care workers
- Planning is underway with Public Health for large – scale vaccination efforts
- Vaccination of all HHS/SJHH ALC patients designated for LTC or transitional care beds is underway
- Vaccination of all patients at the SHF will also be done this week
- Goal remains to vaccinate everyone at HHS who wishes to receive it – timing based on supply
- Find additional information on second doses on the [HUB HERE](#)

NOTE: if you are worried that you have missed a phone call / text / email regarding your second dose please contact the clinic at – 905 – 381 – 7055 or email – covidvaccination@hhsc.ca

- HCW will receive the vaccine in sequenced order based on the provincial document “[Guidance for Prioritizing HCW’s for COVID 19 Vaccine](#)”
- Please review [FAQ’s](#) and revised [Sequencing Group Document](#)

Ontario Hospital Association’s (OHA) Panel Discussion on Vaccines

The OHA convened a panel of experts to explain the decision to extend the interval between first and second vaccine doses from 21-28 days to 42 days. The panel features Dr. Peter Lin, Director of Primary Care Initiatives at the Canadian Heart Research Centre and CBC Health Columnist, Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh, Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), and Dr. Brad Wouters, Executive Vice President of Science and Research at University Health Network. The goal of this video is to help healthcare workers better understand the science behind the decision and what the delay means for them – [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

VACCINATION SIGN UP [HERE](#)

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

NO SHOWS for appointments – please, if you are unable to attend and need to cancel a vaccination appointment contact: covidvaccination@hhsc.ca

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

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

QUESTIONS related to vaccine please email Dr. Helene Flageole: flageol@mcmaster.ca

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

HHS HUB News

Highlights from Town Hall (Thursday February 11th):

Pandemic Response Planning (Presented by Sharon Pierson)

- Occupancy remains high
- Number of patients with COVID has decreased below 50 for the first time in weeks
- Regional transfers as of February 11th:

Hospital	Transfers Received
Joseph Brant Hospital	7

St. Joseph's Hospital	8
HHS (General)	8
Niagara Health	3

- Ongoing outbreak at JH
- Good news – outbreaks declared over at WLMH, HGH, SHF and Grace Villa

Epidemiology Update (Presented by Dr. Dominik Mertz)

The provincial and local epidemiology continues to improve, and we now see the impact on our health care setting with less patients admitted with COVID, less exposures and contact tracings in the hospitals, and no new outbreaks.

There is a lot of media attention to an experimental study using mannequins to compare efficiency of masks in reducing exposure to tiny air particles. The study concluded that the fit of a medical mask can be improved by putting a cloth mask on top of a medical mask, or by knotting the ear loops. A one pager is being put together and will get widely shared that summarized the study, its limitations, and the take home messages. In short: knotting is supported if improving the fit, while double masking remains discouraged.

**Please see “Updated Guidance on Masks from CDC” attached*

Vaccine Updates (Presented by Leslie Gauthier)

- See “Vaccination Updates” above for information

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) Update (Presented by Bruce Squires and Dr. Sunjay Sharma)

- President's Advisory Council on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) has been created and consists of 50+ members of HHS staff and physicians
- Establish framework for EDI that will identify and begin to address systemic discrimination
- Areas to be explored include:
 - Organizational commitment and integration
 - Professional practice, education and research
 - System interaction and culture
 - Compositional diversity and community
- November, HHS leaders participated in EDI and anti-racism workshops
- Staff, physicians and learners have participated in courses offered by Human Rights & Inclusion Team Building:
 - Building Thriving Communities: Intersectional Anti-Racism: Anti-Oppression
 - Compassionate Cross-Cultural Communication
- Events continue throughout the community related to EDI and Black History Month
- For more information about HHS' efforts related to addressing anti-black racism, ways to celebrate and more – please visit the Human Rights and Inclusion page [HERE](#)

“Black history is not just for Black people – Black history is Canadian history” – The Honourable Jean Augustine

Link to Town Hall (Thursday, February 11th) [HERE](#)

Please find link to the [HHS HUB here](#) for additional COVID-19 related information.

COVID-19 Policies to Review

Attendance On Site by Service Providers, Contractors and Vendors Deemed Essential During COVID-19

Find Policy [HERE](#)

Interpreting Test Results in Patients with Resolved COVID Infection

Find Policy [HERE](#)

Additional Information

Request for Physician COVID Vaccinators – Community Large Site Provision

HHS and SJHH are key participants at the city's planning and operational tables for the coordinated provision of COVID vaccine. This work is a partnership with the hospitals, Public Health, Family Medicine, Hamilton Paramedics and the City of Hamilton. Family Medicine has been the predominant (but not the only) source of physician labour to date. The current planning efforts are focused on the ability to deliver on **10,000 vaccinations daily** commencing as soon as March 1, 2021.

There is an opportunity and a need to extend the invitation for physician vaccinators to ALL physician groups.

It is essential that we ensure that all vaccination staffing offers are provided with the certainty that they will NOT infringe on hospital clinical commitments, as well as potential hospital surge coverage.

This ask is fairly specific; **we have approximately 48 hours to determine the coverage the MD community is able to contribute over a 12 week (minimum) period.**

This information will then be collated centrally to present a proposed coverage model.

If you are able to offer availability please provide the following information:

1. Name
2. Contact information - cell and preferred email
3. Approximate number of shifts per week you anticipate you would be willing and able to offer

Please reply to lwaite@stjosham.on.ca

Please direct any questions to packerta@hhsc.ca or tpacker@stjosham.on.ca

REMINDER:

Effective immediately, physicians who are scheduled administer COVID-19 vaccines are eligible to be compensated under the **H409/H410 billing codes**. Attached is a message from the ADM outlining the terms for compensating physicians who participate in the COVID-19 vaccination initiative for HHS – below is an excerpt

Fee Code	Fee Code Description	Fee Code Amount	Effective
H409	COVID-19 Sessional Unit - per one-hour period, or major part thereof	\$170.00	March 2020
H410	COVID-19 Sessional Unit - per one-hour period, or major part thereof on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or Monday to Friday afterhours (5pm-7am)	\$220.00	March 2020

The following provides clarity on eligibility requirements for billing under the H409/H410 fee codes:

- Unlike FFS billings, these codes must be billed with an eligible group number that has been assigned to the hospital coordinating the services. **The group code for HHS is M305**
- Payments will be remitted directly to the service provider's solo banking account rather than to the group
- The physician must be scheduled by a hospital or public health unit to provide these services.
- The H409/H410 codes are only eligible for work at eligible assessment centres
- The H409/H410 are also billable by all physicians who are re-deployed by HHS to long-term care and/or congregate care settings under certain conditions

**Please see document "Vaccination – Remuneration Summary" attached*

eLearning for 2021

Medical Affairs has been working closely with our Learning Technology Specialists to enhance the eLearning experience for Professional Staff based on your feedback.

As reappointments near, you will soon be receiving your notice which includes the attestation to complete Mandatory eLearning by end of 2021:

E-LEARNING

Do you commit to completing the mandatory eLearning Modules during 2021?

(N.B. submission of reappointment application will not be held if eLearning is not complete)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Unfortunately, there is still the smallest amount of work required before we are ready to launch this updated eLearning for our Processional Staff. We ask that you do agree to complete the eLearning but **postpone attempting to complete it until further notice** from our team.

We are hoping that this update will be ready for launch at the end of February / very early March 2021 and we will ensure that you are made aware when access is to the eLearning System is live.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Quinn at kolthof@hhsc.ca.



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