

COVID-19 Update

Date: April 22, 2020
To: Everyone at HHS
From: Dr. Wes Stephen, COO and EVP Clinical Operations
Subject: **Capacity & Service Planning**

Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) is beginning a new stage of pandemic preparedness planning.

This next stage recognizes that our available capacity for the COVID-19 pandemic exceeds the burden of illness projected for our community and region. Going forward, HHS will continue to maintain the required bed capacity for patients with COVID-19 assigned to us by Ontario Health.

As a result of decreased inpatient volumes, we are taking the opportunity to cohort COVID positive in-patients into one HHS ward. Some exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Assuming current patient volumes, we will cohort all adult, confirmed COVID-19 positive patients at Hamilton General Hospital (HGH) on units 8 West and ICU East/South, with support from the emergency department. Currently, some COVID-19 patients are receiving care at Juravinski Hospital. These patients will be relocated to HGH during the week of Apr. 27.

Why HGH?

- Proximity to the specialized expertise and resources of our regional programs (e.g. neuro, cardiac, trauma) at HGH may be required, depending on the patient's pathway.
- We will be able to continue to build local expertise in treating patients with COVID-19, and further conserve PPE required to care for these individuals.

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- The second floor of the Regional Rehabilitation Centre will continue to be held for the purpose of responding to the pandemic as needed, containing all COVID-related activity to one campus.

Pediatric & Maternal Health Patients

- Pediatric and maternal health patients will continue to receive care at McMaster Children's Hospital/McMaster University Medical Centre, and will be cohorted according to standard practice.

For the foreseeable future, containment measures will remain in place across HHS recognizing that COVID-19 is still circulating in our community, although the risk remains low.

We will continue to share updates about the resumption of clinical services as these plans progress.

We thank everyone at HHS for your continued efforts to minimize the impact of COVID in our hospitals and community.

In the meantime, if you have questions please speak to your leader, or contact staff-covid19@hhsc.ca.