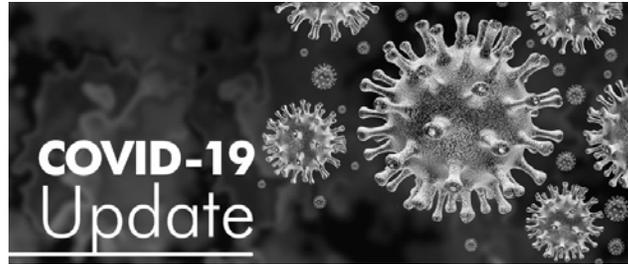


PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL



DATE: April 2nd, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update #17

Today's Take-Aways:

- Our hospital is now working with local long-term care facilities and others to determine how new long-term care directives with regards to COVID-19 will impact on our ability to move patients within the health care system.
- Medical 2A will soon have a Clinical Support Nurse. This is a new role to assist staff in ensuring their safety on the unit.
- As part of efforts to ensure that personal protective equipment is available when it is most needed, the potential for sterilizing N95 and other PPE is being explored provincially and we expect to get direction on this soon.
- Staff who have questions about PPE and the PPE directives are asked to call our Infection Prevention and Control staff for answers and clarification. Please do not call Public Health as their resources are being heavily utilized.
- Regular reports on both our supply inventory and on the number of probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 at PRH will soon be shared with the entire health care team as part of these updates..
- Mental Health Services staff in our Outreach program are ensuring clients in need have nutritional meals available to them by organizing a meal delivery service which will include an Easter dinner delivery next week.
- There is a tremendous amount of great work, kindness, compassion and creativity taking place throughout our organization. Together, we are all making things work and the Communications Working Group will soon be rolling out ways to celebrate all that is taking place in these challenging times.
- Today's YouTube video features Sabine Mersmann, Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services – Partnerships and Integration, who is speaking about some of the ways we are helping patients to connect with their loved ones during restricted visiting protocols. She also addresses visitor restrictions and how new moms are needing to plan ahead with these restrictions in place. Feel free to copy and paste the link below into your browser or access the video directly from the link in the body of today's update email.

<https://youtu.be/oGjcffSAAM0>

- Clearly during these challenging times people are experiencing various forms of grief – grieving the loss of our normalcy, safety, security and comfort. The link below is to an article that may be helpful in understanding this concept and how to cope with this type of grief.

<https://hbr.org/2020/03/that-discomfort-youre-feeling-is-grief>

- The Ontario Hospital Association is asking hospital staff to help reinforce the message that Ontarians need to stay home to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our hospitals from being overwhelmed. It is important for Ontarians to know who is behind their care and how important it is that they stay home. Leaders are committed to getting these video messages out in front of tens of thousands of Ontarians, but need your voices. Follow the link below for details on how to record your message.

<https://www.helpingourhospitals.ca/share-advice>

- In Ontario, as of April 2nd, there have been 2,793 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19. There have been 53 deaths and 831 cases have been resolved. A total of 62,733 people have been tested and 2,052 remain under investigation. For up-to-date information on provincial COVID-19 statistics, please visit www.ontario.ca.

- For the latest Renfrew County information on COVID-19, please visit www.rcdhu.com.

- For all COVID-19 related questions, please be sure to email them to **covid19questions@prh.email** rather than sending them directly to Infection Prevention and Control. Before you send a question, check the Staff Resources section of our website (pembrokeregionalhospital.ca) to see if the question you are asking has already been asked and answered. Questions and answers are posted and organized by date.

Need information, assistance or have suggestions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Infection Prevention and Control at extension 7106 or Occupational Health and Safety at extension 7202 or your immediate supervisor.

If you have any suggestions on COVID-19 preparation, please bring these forward at your huddles or to your supervisor.

Recognizing the stress and anxiety that a situation like this can bring about, we remind you that our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has experts available to help by calling 1-844-880-9142 or visiting their website at www.worklifehealth.com.

Mental health workers are now offering free therapy to Ontario's frontline COVID-19 staff. For more information visit <https://covid19therapists.com/>.