

Perth and Smiths Falls District Hospital - COVID-19 General Information Update – April 9, 2020

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Current Hospital Operations

- PSFDH continues to operate and is providing essential and urgent services
- Non-essential and non-urgent clinics, tests, procedures and surgeries have been postponed in accordance with provincial guidance
- PSFDH has been postponing non-essential and non-urgent clinic visits, tests, procedures and surgeries in 2 week increments. At this point it is unknown how long clinic visits, tests, procedures and surgeries will be postponed.
- PSFDH has established a process to help ensure that if a patient's condition changes and the needed service is essential or urgent, they can receive the service at the hospital
- Hospital occupancy at PSFDH and other hospitals is currently reduced in part to the decrease in non-essential and non-urgent activity. Occupancy at PSFDH fluctuates daily but is currently about 65% capacity
- Emergency department visits at PSFDH and other hospitals are currently reduced. Although visit levels are fluctuating, Emergency Department visits fluctuate daily but have been reduced as much as 50%.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

- Personal protection equipment (PPE) is used by health care professionals to help protect themselves and the patients to whom they provide care
- There is a global and local shortage of PPE; PSFDH is concerned about the current inventory level, but continues to meet the PPE needs of staff and physicians at this time
- PSFDH has implemented a variety of measures to monitor and conserve our limited supply

Donations and Availability of Needed PPE and Other Supplies

- The entire community has been extremely generous in making donations and other offers to the hospital
- **A "Donation and Other Offers" page has been placed on the PSFDH website describing current supply needs (see: <https://psfdh.on.ca/>) including an email address where offers and donations may be sent (see: covid-donations@psfdh.on.ca)**
- PSFDH has been partnering with the Smiths Falls Community Hospital Foundation and the Great War Memorial Hospital Foundation to better manage the offers and donations of supplies and other items

The PSFDH COVID-19 Assessment Centre (CAC)

- The PSFDH CAC located at the Smiths Falls site is functioning well
- Patients receive an assessment and COVID-19 testing if required while in their vehicle. They are provided with instructions and public health follow-up as needed
- Laboratory testing is being performed in accordance with provincial criteria
- Visits to the CAC are by appointment. Appointments are made by referral from primary care, public health and from Telehealth Ontario. Telehealth Ontario directs patients to the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit who refer patients to the CAC
- If additional CAC capacity is required, PSFDH has a plan for providing additional approved testing sites as needed

Laboratory Testing

- Laboratory testing for COVID-19 has been performed within the hospital and the CAC in accordance with provincial testing guidelines
- Updated testing guidelines were released on April 8, 2020 which recommended expansion of testing for certain patient populations. The guidelines applicable to the hospital and CAC are being implemented
- The turn-around-time for testing performed for patients in the hospital and at the CAC has been improving over the last 2 weeks as newly expanded testing capacity has been added in Kingston. In addition, some samples where a rapid response is needed can be specially flagged and test results can be returned in about 24 hours. Other test results may longer to be returned

Critical Care

- PSFDH has historically provided critical care to our community, including short term ventilation if needed. Patients who have required higher levels of critical care (including longer periods of ventilator care) would routinely be transferred to a tertiary care centre in Ottawa or Kingston.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of PSFDH in managing critical care is unchanged

Dr. Barry Guppy President and CEO