



MNCYN & LHSC COVID-19
Weekly Perinatal Regional
WebEx Update
Minutes



Date: June 15, 2020
1500-1530 hrs.

Moderators: Leanne McArthur

Present: Leanne McArthur (MNCYN), Gwen Peterek (MNCYN), Kristine Fraser (MNCYN), Sheila Johnston (MNCYN), Amanda Sonnenberg (NGH), Leanne Paton, (WGH), Colleen Ford (Owen Sound), Kerri Hannon (HPHA), Stacy Laureano (LHSC), Caroline Proctor (MOH), Tihana Antic (MOH), Michelle Basacco (LHSC), Rajwant Sousa (LHSC), Mary Rae (Hanover), Kristy Moore-Bunny (TBH), Marie Greer-King (AMGH), Henry Roukema (LHSC-NICU), Anita Bunnie (MNCYN), plus other callers on the phone.

Item #1: Welcome/Regional Updates, COVID-19 Cases (Leanne McArthur)

Discussion:

- Leanne gave an update on regional Covid-19 cases (as of Jun 15, 2020)

LOCATION	CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS	OTHER STATS
LONDON-MIDDLESEX	585	452	57	6 new cases
WINDSOR-ESSEX	1198	706	67	
CHATHAM-KENT	149	144	1	
ST. THOMAS	80	70	4	
LAMBTON	276	235	25	
HURON-PERTH	56	48	5	
GREY-BRUCE	101	91	0	
MICHIGAN	66,054		6,016	
• DETROIT	11,336		1,420	
ONTARIO	32,370	27,213	2,527	419 in hospital 104 ICU 69 Vent
CANADA				

- Although we continue to see the phases of re-opening in our communities, we are seeing continued cases across Ontario. We have been very fortunate to have not been hit significantly in the perinatal or paediatric programs and we are thankful for this.
- On the last WebEx call we had a discussion and update of the Born Ontario surveillance report and cases. We hope that everyone has had an opportunity to review this. If there are questions, we would be happy to forward them to Born for follow up.

Action Items:

- No action items.

Item #2: LHSC Women's Care Updates (Stacy Laureano)

Discussion:



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- **Stacy** – There has been a recent change to our visitor policy that will make it more fluid. Our policy will change from a “Temporary Visitor” Policy to a “Family/Caregiver Presence and Visitor Restrictions” Policy. This policy now acknowledges the distinction between family/caregivers and visitors. The policy clarifies that only family/caregivers are permitted as ‘essential’ and allowed to enter the hospital. However, there remain several conditions to when family/caregivers are permitted access.

We have had a soft start for seeing postpartum patients up to 3 weeks in our Triage department – still working on this.

Q: Leanne: Has there been any change at LHSC regarding their well-baby follow ups?

A: Stacy: No, there hasn’t been any change that I am aware of.

Action Items:

- No action items.

Item #3: MNCYN Updates (Gwen)

Discussion:

- **Ontario Hospitals Assoc. (OHA) - Changes to Hospital Visitation Policies**
 - Last week we received a memo from Anthony Dale, President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association which we will post under our Visitor Policy Tab.
 - Now that the pandemic has stabilized, the OHA and its members are working with the Ministry of Health and partners to establish evidence-based guidance that incorporates safety and infection prevention and control measures to facilitate greater caregiver presence in hospitals. To proceed with a change in policy respecting caregivers and visitors an amendment to current directives from the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario will be necessary but must consider factors such as:
 - local COVID-19 infections
 - rising hospital occupancy
 - rising numbers of alternate-level-of-care patients (who await placement in more appropriate settings)
 - increasing emergency room visits
 - ramping up of scheduled activity and PPE supply considerations it is essential that this matter be handled with great care
- As LHSC starts to slowly re-open some of its services, the Communications Support Dept. has created several communication resources available for staff and physicians to assist them in their interactions with patients and families. eg.
 - [Key messages and potential questions](#)
 - [Sample voicemail script](#)
 - [Patient checklist](#) (to be used for booking all visits)
 - Phone scripts
 - Patient letter templates
 - [Patient handout with FAQ](#)



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- LHSC has also developed communication templates for use when collaborating with regional providers – eg.
 - [Notification of service offerings](#)
 - [Referral source letter to confirm scheduled patient appts.](#)
 - [Returned referral letter](#)

Update on Resources:

- **Reminder: SOGC is offering a free 5 part comprehensive online course entitled COVID – 19 101.** Free to both members and non- SOGC Members – The course will provide a review of available evidence, current recommendations regarding COVID-19 management regarding perinatal care, an overview of the virology, epidemiology and transmission of COVID –19 as it relates to pregnant and postpartum patients

The SOGC also recently updated its Committee Opinion and posted it as of June 4th

Both of these items will be posted on the MNCYN website Under the Perinatal tab

- **PCMCH:** Last week the PCMCH released a document of questions and answers they received during their last COVID-19 webinar regarding the taskforce guidelines. We have posted this document on the MNCYN website under our Perinatal tab.
 - Specifically, the document provides clarification regarding
 - CV Management in the O.R.
 - Personal PPE
 - Support Persons during Labour & Delivery
 - Breastfeeding
 - Neonatal Considerations

Leanne: I want to say ‘thank you’ to the members who have responded to my email with respect to questions about how the Network supported you during this COVID journey to identify and share the work that has been done with the work across the region. We have shared your comments with our MOH partners who are on the call with us today.

As we move forward, we will continue to look nationally and provincially for literature, data, information and updates to share with you.

Action Items:

- No action items.

Item #4: Regional Q&A, Open Discussion

Discussion:

Leanne: LHSC has adjusted their visitor policy – I'm wondering if anyone else has changed or altered their policy and guidelines since things are shifting with reopening?



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Kerri Hannon: No, we haven't had any discussion about changing. We have just made a few changes re allocation for compassionate care and we are able to allow more visitors under this restriction -that was a change about 2 weeks ago, but other than that, we have left everything else as status quo.

Leanne: In terms of ramping up of services, have there been any shifting or adjustments in terms of what services are accessible or available now?

Kerri Hannon: No, we have always been providing a small amount of services. Our census has been low, but we will start to ramp up here shortly. We are now having some challenges with our higher risk A/N patients. Our physicians had been seeing them in their offices but now they want to start seeing them again in hospital, however, we haven't gotten the green light on that yet.

Q: Michelle Basacco (LHSC): Is anyone offering LOAs for their antenatal patients? No verbal response, but attendees noted to be shaking their heads no.

Q: Marie Greer-King (Goderich): Do you know if London is still treating all ORs as AGMP? What PPE is the support person wearing (i.e. surgical mask with face shield or N95 mask?).

Stacy Laureano (LHSC): We are just providing fathers with a Level 2 or 3 surgical mask and a Level 3 gown when they go into the OR. It is the typical dad attire.

Q: Leanne: For Owen Sound, in terms of reopening, have there been any shifts or changes in terms of your services? (Colleen – no response)

Simcoe (Amanda Sonnenberg): We Just got the go ahead to go to Phase 2 today. We are just looking at the visitors' policy and need to have discussions about caregivers. Holding steady.

Leanne Paton (Woodstock): No real change to visitor policy at all. There has been some discussion about changing masks, etc. For surgical program we are ramping up and just looking at if we have to change anything. For the Outpatient clinic, we are looking week by week and reassessing.

Q: Leanne: Has anyone had challenges re: families, visitors pushing back or requesting to visit etc.?

Leanne Paton (Woodstock): Most people are understanding, so we have not seen a lot of push back, but we just had admission today involving a woman with a broken hip and the patient's daughter really wants to come in to see mother who is on Med / Surg. Unit, but we had to maintain and reinforce that we still have the same visitors' restrictions in place.

Kerri Hannon (Stratford): We have had challenges when patients come back post-delivery for bili checks, or outpatient procedures and dad thinks he should be allowed to come back in, but our policy is that only mom can come back in. That has been challenging, as a few families want to come back up to the unit, but we are not allowing that yet and have remained consistent.

Q: Leanne: Have you scripted standardized messaging?

Kerri Hannon (Stratford): Yes, we have a letter that they get that describes the visitor information.



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Mary Rae (Hanover): In Hanover we are still doing the OB clinic and physician assessments across the road in our clinic, which we are assessing weekly. We are still doing inductions, etc. We still have restricted visiting.

Kristy Moore Bunney (Thunder Bay)- We are not changing any visitor restrictions for at least another couple of weeks. Senior leadership has decided that we should wait a bit to decide what is the best way to come back out of COVID. This is only related to maternal newborn. We have opened up visitor restrictions in other areas of hospital and also surgeries.

Henry Roukema (LHSC): We are getting some push back about visitor restriction in NICU. Parents want to have more than one parent in at a time. They are allowed to switch at 8 hrs but still only one at a time.

Leanne: If there are any other questions, feel free to send them along and we will find out answers and update on the next call.

Adjournment: 1521 hrs. Next meeting next Monday, June 22, 2020.