



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



Date: Jun 22, 2020  
1500-1530 hrs.

**Moderators:** Leanne McArthur, Gwen Peterrek

**Present:** Leanne McArthur (MNCYN), Gwen Peterrek (MNCYN), Kristine Fraser (MNCYN), Colleen Ford (GBHS), Sheila Johnston (MNCYN), Libbie McConnell (STEGH), Deborah Wiseman (LHSC), Anita Bunnie (MNCYN), Umesaaa Pararajasingham (MOH), Travis Breedveld (NICU-LHSC), Henry Roukema (LHSC), Kerri Hannon (HPHA), Stacy Laureano (LHSC), plus 3 other call-in users. (15 total)

**Welcome (Leanne McArthur)**

**Item #1: Update of regional Covid-19 Cases (Ontario data as of June 21, 2020)**

LOCATION	CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS	OTHER STATS
LONDON-MIDDLESEX	607	479	57	1 new case
WINDSOR-ESSEX	1329	784	68	
CHATHAM-KENT	157	147	1	
ST. THOMAS	82	71	4	
LAMBTON	285	244	25	
HURON-PERTH	57	49	5	
GREY-BRUCE	106	94	0	
MICHIGAN	67,711		6,090	
• DETROIT	11,389		1,430	
ONTARIO	33,637	28,933	2,609	265 in hospital 76 ICU 58 Vent
CANADA				

**Leanne:** We are seeing numbers reducing as we flatten the curve and will continue to watch phase 3 of reopening of services. Texas and Florida have seen a surge recently, so we are hoping that things stay settled for us in Ontario.

We have been busy gathering as many resources as we can and will be posting them.

Leanne will be participating in another task force Of the PCMCH re: Essential Perinatal Services and will keep us posted as to what that will look like moving forward. Leanne has also been working on a small task force to develop public facing resources for families have babies during COVID -19.



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We are now starting to see shifts in MOH recommendations regarding patients and caregivers. Hospitals are now starting to review those recommendations. We will have them posted on our website as well.

**Item #2: LHSC Updates**

**Stacy Laureano (MBCU):** We are looking at the potential for swabbing our booked C/S, as the main OR is already doing this. We are wondering if other hospitals are already doing this? Also, inpatients who are in hospital greater than 1 week can now have one visitor once a week.

**Deb Wiseman (Paeds):** From the Children's side of things, we have shifted our visitor policy to a family caregiver policy that will now allow up to 2 designated parent/guardians/caregivers at a time. Each parent/guardian/caregiver can leave and return to the bedside once in a 24-hour period.

This was activated last Friday in time for Father's Day. We continue to ramp up the Paediatric Medical Day Unit (PMDU) program, with approvals from regional and provincial tables, as well as PIMT team and Global team. Ambulatory care will remain with 1 parent/caregiver due to social distancing requirements and PMDU unit volumes. Additionally, we are shifting towards a more standard hospital operating structure; our Paeds surgeries should be back up to about 70% - they had dropped down to 20%.

**Henry Roukema (NICU):** Due to recent Provincial changes all inter-hospital transfers now require a COVID swab on admission. Generally, NICUs across the province have made an exception for newborns in the first 24 hours. For mothers being transferred to be closer to their babies, and for neonates transferred after 24 hours, a swab needs to be done. The difficulty is that it is a screening swab, and not a swab for a symptomatic patient (PUI), which kicks in restrictions and triggers for droplet precautions. An orderable is being distinguished to differentiate between the two, and the screening orderable will not trigger precautions.

In the interim, a risk assessment can be completed after a screening swab, and if the risk is deemed to be low for COVID, precautions and visitor restrictions can be stopped. Usual masking and good hand hygiene will continue, as for anyone.

- **Patient Transfers from Other Hospitals**
  - Patients admitted to LHSC directly from another hospital, will be swabbed for COVID and be placed on droplet/contact precautions until results are back. The accepting physician can do a risk review and determine if the COVID testing was simply surveillance and may decide to discontinue these precautions
- *For patients with a baby in the NICU*
  - The MRP or delegate can complete a risk review and order that the precautions be discontinued prior to visiting in the NICU
  - They do not have to have their droplet/contact precautions discontinued in order to visit their baby in NICU, but this is ideal



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- When the mom is visiting in the NICU she will need to be masked and the infant will be placed no closer than 6 feet away from any other patient.
- Where medically appropriate there are no restrictions for infant handling.
- Notification of the arrival of mom to NICU would be appreciated and should include status on risk assessment where known.

The NICU had a situation recently where a mom who needed to be transferred for acute care mom was swabbed which by general rules she would not be able to see baby. If she had been discharged from a hospital and had come to visit her baby in NICU she would not need to be swabbed so we have had to look at some of these individual scenarios.

**Item #3: MNCYN Update: (Gwen Peterek)**

Update on Resources:

As LHSC starts to re-open some of its services it has developed some new COVID-19 pandemic patient management resources including a range of guidance for following a patient from symptom presentation to clearance of COVID-19 disease . These are the most up-to-date resources and include:

- revised flow maps for patient presentation
- patient placement
- and precaution discontinuation protocol.

There is also a Cleaning Protocol for Procedure/Exam Rooms Between Patient Visits which provides a visual reference of the steps that must be taken to properly disinfect ambulatory care procedure/exam rooms in between patients.

These resources have been posted on the MNCYN website under the General Tab. The flow maps have been posted under the Algorithms tab.

The Ministry of Health also recently published a number of updated guidelines that we have posted under our General tab:

- [COVID-19 Guidance: Acute Care](#) – June 15th, 2020
- [Memorandum – Visitors to Acute Care Settings](#) - Ministry of Health – Chief Medical Officer of Health – June 15th, 2020
- [COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart](#) – Ministry of Health (15.06.2020)
- [A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

We have also posted under the General tab:



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- Public Health Ontario [COVID-19 – What We Know So Far about Social Determinants of Health](#) - May 24, 2020
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for the Onboarding for Health Care Workers, Trainees, and Volunteers](#) – Champlain Health Region Incident Command (CHRIC) - June 16th, 2020

**Health Nexus** has recently posted a series of new COVID resources and key messages and a webinar on infection prevention for parents who have or will give birth in Ontario during COVID-19. You can share these resources with families by going to the Health Nexus Website under COVID-19 Section (<http://healthnexus.ca/>). Best Start has also recently produced a webinar in partnership with the Ontario Assoc. of Children's Aid Societies entitled [When Home Is Not a Safe Place](#). This webinar addresses issues that can be intensified through social isolation and provides tips for service providers on how to stay in touch and stay aware and support our most vulnerable families. Some of the other Best Start Resources have also been adapted to support expecting families during the COVID pandemic.

We have added these Health Nexus / Best Start links to our MNCYN COVID website under the Patient Information tab.

**Q:** Jocelyn Patton-Audette (Owen Sound) emailed her concerns regarding some of the Health Nexus Resources expressing confusion as it is stated that the resources are intended for families birthing during the pandemic, but the information seems specific to COVID19 positive moms. Specifically, on the breastfeeding brochure it states that asymptomatic moms should wear a mask while breastfeeding and keep the baby 2m away. It also says to wear a mask while preparing formula but doesn't mention to do so while giving it. She expressed concern that this info. discourages breastfeeding and skin to skin care inappropriately for well moms and questioned if hospitals are required to use these resources or the social media calendar.

**Action:** *Leanne will take these concerns back to the community task force. We can discuss it on the next call.*

We have also updated our COVID Resources Document to include:

- **American Academy of Pediatrics. FAQs: Management of Infants Born to Mothers with Suspected or Confirmed COVID – 19 (May 21, 2020)** <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/faqs-management-of-infants-born-to-covid-19-mothers/>

#### **Item #4: Regional Q&A, Open Discussion**

**Poll:** A poll was activated to gauge whether participants are still finding these WebEx meetings to be useful and secondly, to decide on the frequency of the meetings. For those participating by phone, they are asked to send their responses to any of the team members. We will update our participant list with the poll outcomes before the next meeting.

**Regional Q & A:** None



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**Leanne:** We will be continuing with our Service Delivery Model work across the region and having continued discussions about ramping up of services. These discussions will be helpful as we move forward with the essential services work through PCMCH.

If you have any further questions or comments, please forward them via email to either Leanne, Gwen or Kristine and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

**Action Items:**

- Leanne to notify the participants of the poll results with regards to future WebEx meetings.

**Adjournment:** 1522 hrs.