



MNCYN & LHSC COVID-19
Weekly Paediatric Regional
Teleconference Update
Minutes



Date: June 10, 2020
1600-1630 hrs.

Moderators: Kristine Fraser

Present: Kristine Fraser, Gwen Peterek, Anita Bunnie, Colleen Ford, Tim Lynch, Kelly Barza, Jocelyn Patton-Audette, Tihana Antic (MOH), Janice Tijssen, Ian Johnson, Caroline Proctor, Ursula Cote, Tom Lacroix, others

Item #1: Welcome/Regional Updates, COVID-19 Cases (Kristine Fraser on Leanne's behalf)

Discussion: COVID-19 Case Update

- Leanne McArthur sends her regrets for today's meeting. She is unable to join us due to a conflicting priority.
- London: 567 cases, 8 new, 426 resolved, 56 deaths
- Windsor: 1,104 cases, 656 resolved, 67 deaths
- Lambton: 254 cases, 185 resolved, 21 deaths
- Chatham-Kent: 148 cases, 142 resolved, 2 death
- Sarnia: 270 cases, 233 resolved, 25 deaths
- HPHA: 55 cases, 47 resolved, 5 deaths
- Owen Sound: 99 cases, 88 resolved, 0 deaths
- St. Thomas: 75 cases, 68 resolved, 4 deaths
- Ontario: 31,341 cases, 25,380 resolved, 2,475 deaths, 580 hospitalized, 118 ICU, 86 vented
- Detroit: 11,264 cases, 1,408 deaths
- Michigan: 64,998 cases, 5,943 deaths
- Doug Ford announced earlier this week that certain areas of the province are moving into Stage 2 of re-opening including child-care centres which will be allowed to re-open on Friday, June 12th. There are strict guidelines including a max of 10 people, which includes the care-providers. So it will be interesting to watch if there is a rise in paediatric COVID-19 cases.

Item #2: MNCYN Updates (Kristine)

Discussion: Kristine Fraser

1. Researchers from the University of Calgary are launching a two-year investigation into the relationship between COVID-19 and children. The study will include a 29-member team of scientists who will study how the disease affects children's bodies, whether they build short-term or long-term immunity after being infected and what role they play in transmitting the virus. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7045825/coronavirus-study-children-university-calgary/>



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2. Ontario government is investing \$20 million through the Ontario COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund to support COVID-19 research and has appointed Dr. Jane Philpott as the special advisor to implement the new Ontario Health Data Platform. The goal is to gather information to allow researchers to help with increasing CV detection, risk factors for vulnerable populations and predicting when and where outbreaks may happen, evaluating treatments options and identifying where to allocate equipment and resources.
3. **MOH: COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart (May 26, 2020)**
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/operational_requirements_health_sector.pdf
 - On May 26, 2020, Directive #2 was amended to support the gradual restart of all deferred & non-essential & elective services carried out by healthcare providers (HCPs)
 - As part of the gradual restart of services, HCPs are in best position to determine which services can continue to be offered remotely (virtually) & which services can safely resume in-person, assuming the necessary preconditions as set out in this Operational Requirements document are met
4. **MOH: Provincial Testing Guidance Update Document, released on June 2, 2020**
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_covid_testing_guidance.pdf
 - Ontario provincial testing guidance is being updates as the pandemic continues to evolve and ON lab testing capacity increases
 - Updates to this document include guidance on asymptomatic close contact testing, asymptomatic contacts of confirmed case exposure (if they test negative & contact becomes symptomatic, they should be re-tested – if test is negative, asymptomatic contacts must remain in self-isolation for 14 days from their last known exposure to the case)

Action Items: Links have been posted onto the MNCYN COVID-19 Resource Page

Item #2: Children's Hospital, LHSC Updates

Discussion: Dr. Tim Lynch

- Projection with ED volume – for June, we are at about 55% of normal volumes which is up from 30% in April. People are still worried about coming into hospitals
- Have been trying to dispel those concerns with the help of MNCYN
- Had a case today re: poison control. We are seeing a lot of cannabis ingestions as cannabis use has increased substantially with the pandemic. Parents are becoming more careless



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and there is a rise in cannabis ingestions in children. All of Ontario has seen a huge increase in cannabis ingestion among kids

Action Items: NONE

Item #3: Regional Q&A, Open Discussion

Regional Questions:

Q: Kelly Barzsa, Cambridge: What is going on re: opening up visitation for inpatient paed; are both parents allowed now? Any change in policy?

- **A: Dr. Janice Tijssen:** At Children's Hospital-LHSC, the visitor policy remains the same as before with the only change being that we used to allow one support person in q24H and now it is every 12H. There is still only 1 person allowed at the bedside unless extenuating circumstances exist (i.e.) dying child. We are not sure when these guidelines will be relaxed
- **Dr. Tom Lacroix:** I sit on the IPAC committee for Bluewater Health. We recommend to keep doing what you are doing because the MOH released a statement yesterday that actually was more tight on visiting restrictions and laid out what stages 1, 2 & 3 should look like
- In this directive, the only one who can change what visitation looks like is the Chief Medical Officer of Health, so in Sarnia, we are just continuing with what we were doing - This directive from MOH dated June 9th
- **Caroline Proctor (MOH):** I am not aware of any updates from yesterday. The Ministry guidance was always meant to be just that, guidance and was never meant to be a directive. They sent out a memo only as the MOH knows every institution has their own PPE supply etc., so they are trying to not be prescriptive – can use hospital autonomy.
- **Tom:** Was the case until yesterday though, when the new guideline was released: Caroline has not seen the new guidance

Q: Jocelyn Patton-Audette (Owen Sound): Is there a regional data tracking system for Paeds COVID-19 cases and who is responsible for inputting the data to it?

- **Kristine:** Dr. Michelle Barton-Forbes (IPAC, LHSC) is tracking and has requested that any suspected or confirmed cases in the region are consulted with the Paeds ID team at Children's Hospital so they can put data into a larger data base here
- **Jocelyn: Owen Sound:** There have been 2 paed cases here, but we did not know about them as they were not sick enough to come to hospital, so there has been no contact tracking or follow up with other children in the home
- **Tom Lacroix:** You have had 6 cases under 20Y in Owen Sound



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- **Jocelyn:** None of them have been cared for by paediatricians in Owen Sound
- **Tom:** Province is not sharing this data with paediatricians. The biggest movers and shakers are Toronto and Central zone which have seen a massive increase in number of paediatric cases. The East and West are on track to do the same thing
- Toronto: 470 cases
- West: 190 cases
- East: 166 cases
- North: 1 new case every 1-2 weeks (up to 22)
- In the west, Waterloo has a lot of cases
- **Kristine:** I don't know where the central database for paedics is located or who runs it
- **Tom:** There is no central database for paedics. I have been trying to track data and post on MNCYN website.

Caroline Proctor (MOH): re: MOH hospital visitor guidance: same memo as the one from March, only allowing essential visitors – hospital can use their own discretion

Action Items: Tom Lacroix to send guideline to Kristine and Caroline

Kristine will post on MNYCN Website

Tom will send what is up-to date as of today and send to Kristine to post on MNCYN website

Adjourned: 4:17 p.m.