



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



Date: June 24, 2020
1600-1630 hrs.

Moderators: Kristine Fraser

Present: Leanne McArthur, Kristine Fraser, Gwen Peterek, Anita Bunnie, Henry Roukema, Kirsten Blaine, Marie Greer-King, Tom Lacroix, Wendy Edwards, Tim Lynch, Colleen Ford, Teresa Bruni, Steve Ali, Deborah Wiseman, Janice Tijssen, Ian Johnston, Tihana Antic (MOH), Callers x5

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

Discussion: COVID-19 Case Update

- London: 611 cases, 1 new, 487 resolved, 57 deaths
- Windsor: 1,365 cases, 808 resolved, 68 deaths
- Lambton: 285 cases, 247 resolved, 25 deaths
- Chatham-Kent: 157 cases, 147 resolved, 2 death
- Sarnia: 270 cases, 233 resolved, 25 deaths
- HPHA: 57 cases, 51 resolved, 5 deaths
- Owen Sound: 109 cases, 96 resolved, 0 deaths
- St. Thomas: 83 cases, 76 resolved, 4 deaths
- ON: 34,016 cases, 29,336 resolved, 2,631 deaths, 278 hospitalized, 173 ICU, 48 vented
- Detroit: 11,457 cases, 1,430 deaths
- Michigan: 68,197 cases, 6,109 deaths
- Have seen the slowing of new cases, though the pandemic is still in play. Still continue to see phasing of opening up of our communities and will continue to watch the data with these phased openings
- **Tom Lacroix:** Paediatric Updates of COVID-19: 1,582 paed cases in Ontario, 7,209 in Canada, Quebec 4,124 cases, but the really good news is since about 10 days after Mother's Day weekend, Ontario's cases have been steadily dropping, so we really have crested the peak and we are on downward trend, Quebec 6 weeks after they opened schools and daycares (outside of Montreal), have seen their cases go from 90/day to 4/day, steady downward trend despite having increased testing, having schools & daycares open, every province has seen their paed numbers flatten out

Action Items: NONE



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Item #2: LHSC Updates

Deborah Wiseman:

- Continue to do work re: ramp up strategies for our Paediatric Medical Day Unit (PMDU) (ambulatory care area), our volumes starting to increase in ED & so we are just starting to review our ED diversion strategies that were put into place for COVID-19, seeing some incremental trauma activity which is not unexpected with the time of year
- NICU seeing essential volumes increased not due to COVID - having a ventilator situation right now in terms of the number in use
- Paediatric critical care volumes still reasonable and lower, but starting to see these creep up
- Preparing for return of students as well and getting plans in place

Tim Lynch: Echo Deborah

- June volumes have increased, but have been fairly flat for last week – about 55% of what we saw last year at this time
- Virtual clinic about 6-8 patients per night, interestingly not having too many people leaving without being seen, traditionally about 5% or even higher leave without being assessed by physician, those numbers are virtual zero now, so most are waiting to be seen
- On front line are now swabbing almost everyone with symptoms and all swabs coming back negative - cough, headache, vomiting etc. – doing more swabs than ever now, but vast majority are coming back negative

Henry Roukema: No comments

Janice Tijssen: No comments

Action Items: NONE

Item #3: MNCYN Updates (Kristine Fraser)

1. LHSC Visitors & Ambulatory Patients with Recent Travel History Outside of Canada

- Visitors & ambulatory patients with recent travel history outside of Canada who fail screening will automatically be denied entrance to all LHSC facilities and the screening team will remind them of their obligation to isolate or quarantine at home as per the [Government of Canada's Emergency Order under the Quarantine Act](#). Any non-urgent and emergent care must be deferred until after a patient's mandatory quarantine period has been completed.



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2. Children's Hospital Inpatient Units

- Previously discussed this on our last paediatric call and the CH has updated their visitor policy: Up to 2 designated parents/guardians/caregivers are now allowed at the bedside at a time. Each person can leave and return to the bedside once in a 24-hour period.

3. Inter-facility transfers for patients transferring from external institutions

- These patients (with the exception of <48hr new neonates) will require COVID-19 testing on arrival
- Currently when this testing is ordered, auto D&C precautions are generated, therefore the MRP can assess risk and discontinue precautions where appropriate
- Patients transferred ED to ED do not require COVID swab, but any patient to be admitted into LHSC should have a fresh swab performed on admission.

4. Ontario Daycares

- As per the direction of the Ontario government, emergency child care services will end as of June 26, so families will be required to make arrangements care after Friday
- Regular licensed daycare programs are in the process of obtaining approval from the Province to open & the majority of daycare centres are hoping to open the first or second week of July.

5. Ontario Prepares for the Safe Reopening of Schools (June 19, 2020)

Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids): Recommendations for School Reopening

- Risks of infection & transmission in children, which appear to be minimal, need to be balanced with the harms of school closure which is impacting their physical & mental health
- It is recommended that children return to school as it is our view, a daily school model is best as it allows for consistency, stability and equity regardless of the region in which children live
- An important factor to consider is the emerging evidence indicating inequalities in the social & economic burden of COVID-19, which may further disadvantage children living in higher burden areas where educational inequality and barriers to online learning may be more pronounced
- <https://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81407-COVID19-Recommendations-for-School-Reopening-SickKids.pdf>

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



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Item #3: Regional Q&A, Open Discussion

Kirsten Blaine (Stratford): Has anyone heard about the child that died in Ontario?

Tom Lacroix (Sarnia): Posted article in chat box: Forensic pathologists going to exam child, from Toronto public health region, 0 -9 year old, still a work in progress, not sure if there were any co-morbidities

Leanne: Will work within my circles to see if I can get any further information and will update as appropriate and send it along

Tom: I will be doing interview on CBC radio tomorrow re: paediatric cases and what is going on with testing and numbers and I think I will be asked for opinions on the Toronto paper re: schools, day cares etc. Anyone who has wants to share their opinions with me would be appreciated

Leanne: If we are seeing and have evidence of what has occurred in Quebec and if we take a similar approach, hopefully we can expect similar outcome

Tom: Some people in Ottawa feel that we are re-opening too slowly for children and we are unduly penalizing them, but from my standpoint, we don't know because we do not have much data on the kids

- Texas/Florida are seeing a surge, but mostly in 20 -30 year old group
- In the US, they have over 100,000 paediatric cases, but only about 1% hospitalized & only a handful of paediatric deaths
- Will be interesting to see as the US opens up some of their sports programs etc.

Leanne: Kids do not respond like adults so as we re-open, people need to continue to be aware of how children present

Tom: There was a decent article in Globe & Mail today re: paediatric cases: they interviewed Teresa Tam and many others (including Dr. Lacroix) re: delayed presentation in children

- SickKids is casting net quite widely to look for any signs of inflammatory problems, though almost everyone is coming back negative, but it may be antibody positive and may be delayed presentation
- SickKids they are banking a lot of blood to look for antibodies once this ramps up

Leanne: We will be moving forward with our regional Chief of Paediatric committee meetings and will be looking at specific paed. data/metrics as decided by this group and COVID may be part of these metrics. We will share this with you in the coming months as we really want to focus on paediatric specific data in the southwest region.

- Next Paeds. call is in 2 weeks

Action Items: NONE

Adjourned: 4:20 PM