



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



**Date: August 5, 2020  
1600-1630 hrs.**

**Moderators:** Kristine Fraser

**Present:** Kristine Fraser, Gwen Peterek, Anita Bunnie, Kirsten Blaine, Tihana Antic (MOH), Umeshaa Pararajasingham (MOH), Caroline Proctor (MOH), Henry Roukema, Deborah Wiseman

**Item #1: Welcome/Regional Updates, COVID-19 Cases (Kristine Fraser)**

**Discussion: COVID-19 Case Update**

- Leanne will be unable to join us today, so I will be facilitating this meeting
- London: 680 cases, 592 resolved, 57 deaths, 1 new case
- Windsor: 2,351 cases, 1,955 resolved, 71 deaths
- Lambton: 319 cases, 270 resolved, 25 deaths
- Chatham-Kent: 288 cases, 215 resolved, 1 death
- HPHA: 74 cases, 69 resolved, 5 deaths
- Owen Sound: 120 cases, 117 resolved, 0 deaths
- St. Thomas: 180 cases, 96 resolved, 5 deaths
- ON: 39,714 cases, 35,747 resolved, 2,782 deaths, 66 hospitalized, 30 ICU, 15 vented
- Detroit: 12,854 cases, 1,489 deaths
- Michigan: 84,050 cases, 6,219 deaths
- We have come a long way, but I did notice in Chatham-Kent and Elgin - since our last meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, there have been significant increases in cases in both areas

**Action Items: NONE**

**Item #2: MNCYN Updates (Kristine Fraser)**

- **CNN & CBC both had News Articles re: Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM) on August 4, 2020**  
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/04/health/acute-flaccid-myelitis-afm-cdc-warning-wellness/index.html> and <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/afm-covid-19-1.5674080>
- CDC has brought to light concerns that in the midst of the pandemic, cases of Acute Flaccid Myelitis may not be recognized or parents might be worried about bringing their child to the doctor or ED due to fear
- AFM is a rare polio-like illness where most children develop fever (35%), respiratory illness or both a few days before they started showing the muscle weakness that is the most telling symptom of AFM: In addition to weakness, common symptoms at clinical evaluation were gait difficulty (52%), neck or back pain (47%), and limb pain (34%), the CDC said in its report.



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- 98% of patients were hospitalized, 54% were admitted to an intensive care unit, & 23% required endotracheal intubation & mechanical ventilation
- Unknown whether coronavirus pandemic could disrupt the spread of viruses suspected of causing AFM with school closures, children wearing masks and physically distancing
- Janice Tijssen & Tim Lynch – both are currently working and unable to join us – AFM is a condition that seems to come about every other year so we are due this year. It is still pretty fresh on our memories as we had a few bad cases 2 years ago. I think the message is the same as for any other condition- if you are worried about a child, have the child come in to be assessed or at the very least, take advantage of virtual ED clinic.

**Action Items: Post both news article onto MNCYN website (Anita)**

**Item #3: LHSC Updates**

**Deborah Wiseman**

- Had a COVID outbreak on B8-200 (Child & Adolescent Mental Health) unit on July 27<sup>th</sup> - just came out of it today
- Primary learning from the CAMH unit closure: when offering services on a unit with only a few beds available – when there is an outbreak in a specialty unit, the closure is significant & has both a regional and local perspective & impact
- Now going around LHSC unit by unit to determine what the plan will be should there be an outbreak and units need to close
- Starting to engage in conversation across LHSC to try to understand from each unit & physicians on what went well and what opportunities and learning there are to get ready for Fall/Winter & a possible second wave - we believe we will have incremental volumes in Fall/Winter and need to prepare for next Round
- Trying to understand what the volume might look like in context of other respiratory diseases
- **Kristine:** Question for Deborah - Ronald McDonald House had family test positive for COVID – but my understanding is they are now accepting families again though. Do you have an update on this?
- They tracked 92 people who were affected – all were negative & on re-test, they added new people, but all came back negative – they have reverted to Stage 3 from Stage 4
- They have removed all barriers to getting people to the testing centre by offering cabs etc.

**Henry Roukema:** No updates from NICU - has been busy, but no COVID to speak about

**MOH: (Caroline Proctor)** - No update to report at this time

**Action Items: NONE**



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

**Caroline Proctor (MOH):** What is clinical reaction to the Ministry of Education opening up schools in the fall?

- Deborah: Our current understanding is it up to the MOH for approval and we will be reaching out to our PHU and school boards to look at how we can support and provide resources
- We understand this is a functional plan based on the importance of going back to school
- Trying to have table dialogue with those leaders and what need to do from a planning perspective
- Within the union language, is there an opportunity to support these circumstances so that teams know what their accountabilities are? For example, what if little Johnny wakes up and is ill? What does that mean for person who has to go to work? Are they a contact or not? – Much to still discuss over the month of August
- No other questions or comments voiced

**Adjourned:** 4:16PM

**Next Meeting:** August 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-4:30PM