

**COVID-19**

- Long-Term Care Asymptomatic Swabbing
  - All designated Long-Term Care staff continue to require weekly COVID-19 testing.
  - Testing will continue every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until the provincial shutdown is cleared, and our region is determined to again be in a “green” or “yellow” zone.
- Personal Support Worker (PSW) Wage Enhancement
  - The temporary wage enhancement for PSWs will be issued in two payments.
  - The first payment was provided to eligible staff on January 20, 2021, and the second payment will be issued in April of 2021.
- State of Emergency and Surge Capacity Planning
  - With the second state of emergency being declared across the province, the regional and provincial Incident Management Systems are in place once again.
  - An order has been received across the region to increase bed capacity and prepare to receive patients from other organizations, if needed. Our organization is currently preparing to support the health system as best we can.
  - Capital purchases to support increased bed capacity have been approved, and procurement efforts have begun.
- Universal Masking Update – Phase III came into effect December 24th
  - As a result of heightened potential for community spread and the movement of the province to shut down in an effort to decrease transmission, our Universal Masking policy has been adjusted to reflect the greater level of restriction for our area.
  - Effective December 24, 2020, all persons in the building are required to wear a medical procedure mask, includes all staff, visitors, or patients within the building. Cloth masks will no longer be permitted as an acceptable form of face covering for any person within the building.
- COVID-19 Vaccine Planning
  - Active planning for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine in Renfrew County is underway, with priority access focused on Long-Term Care residents and staff.
- Visitor Restrictions Enhanced
  - Adjustments to visiting restrictions have been made in alignment with the provincial shutdown and risk of transmission, as of December 26, 2020.
  - Recognizing the importance of connection for our patients and residents, Designated Care Partners/Caregivers will continue to be able to visit patients and residents while followings strict safety guidelines.
  - Under the adjusted restrictions, the following are in effect:
    - Hospital Inpatient Visiting:
      - Each patient may have one (1) Designated Care Partner, if deemed necessary by the care team
      - Only the designated Care Partner will be able to visit
      - COVID testing is not required
    - Four Seasons Lodge Residents:
      - Each resident may have up to two (2) Designated Caregivers
      - Only one (1) Designated Caregiver will be able to visit per day, per resident
      - Proof of negative COVID testing must be provided
    - Emergency Patients/Outpatients:
      - May only have a person accompany them if:

- Under the age of 16
- The person is required for support (i.e. a care provider for someone with a disability)

### **Auxiliary**

- Twelve volunteers have been nominated to receive the 2020 Volunteer Service Award, which has been on hold due to the pandemic. A virtual ceremony is now scheduled on March 24 at 6:00 pm.
- The Gift Shop and The Whistle Stop remain closed at this time.

### **Foundation**

- The Foundation continues to move towards completion of the *Focused on You* Major Campaign.
- The online Catch the Ace raffle lottery is now in its twenty-first week. The progressive jackpot stands at \$8,925 with all ticket sales coming from online purchases.

### **Health Campus Updates**

- Board Assessment
  - The OHA Board Self-Assessment Survey Results were reviewed by the Governance Committee.
- Budget
  - The Board of Directors passed a motion to delay approving the 2021-2022 budget for submission, as we await direction and clarity from the Ministry.
- Building Services
  - Lighting at the main entrance has been updated to LED, which will be brighter, more efficient, and improve safety.
- Capital Updates
  - Electrical Service Distribution Upgrades
    - Tender has closed with successful bidder notified. Work schedule to be determined in the coming weeks.
  - Emergency Department Negative Pressure/Redesign (CMA Foundation Community Hospital Fund)
    - On site visit has been completed by engineer. Working on drawings and design for required renovations.
  - Industrial Dryers
    - Two new industrial dryers were installed in the Laundry Department, replacing previous units that had reached end of life.
  - Office Spaces
    - Renovations are ongoing in the physiotherapy area to create enclosed workspaces for staff. These improvements will provide segregated spaces for clinical interactions and increase safety for everyone.
    - To accommodate these renovations, inpatient physiotherapy services have been moved to the medical floor. This move also addresses an infection prevention and control recommendation to limit the movement of inpatients, and to provide care as close as possible to the bedside.
  - Quantitative Fit Testing (N-95 mask fit tester)
    - Quantitative fit testing equipment has been purchased with long-term care infection prevention and control (IPAC) funding. The equipment has arrived and training is scheduled for IPAC staff.
  - Vending Machine
    - A new vending machine has been ordered, as the current unit is not repairable and is past useful life.

- Electronic Health Record (EPIC)
  - Regular meetings are now happening with The Ottawa Hospital to discuss our Epic transition. It is planned that the 'go-live' process will begin in April 2021, and it will be an 18-month implementation.
- Emergency Department
  - In January, the Emergency Department team participated virtual trauma education provided by the regional trauma network. Physicians, nurses, and leadership participated jointly in the education session to enhance preparations of the department for trauma patients.
- Family Health Team Capital Development Business Case
  - The Ministry hosted a call in December where they provided an update regarding our capital submission. We await further communication from the Ministry.
- Four Seasons Lodge
  - Based on feedback from the Residents' and Family Council, new multi-level dining tables have been put in place and cosmetic upgrades were completed in the Home.
  - The Home has put in place Plexiglas barriers with the new dining tables to create individual spaces.

### **Regional Updates**

- Ontario Health Team (OHT)
  - In an effort to support collaboration efforts with the three original OHT applicants in our region, the Ministry has agreed to provide a Navigator (support and guide facilitated conversations) and a Facilitator (support coordination needed during and between key junctures) to coordinate investigation and efforts towards one OHT application.
  - There is an introductory meeting scheduled on January 29th with the original signatories (from Barry's Bay/Renfrew, Deep River, and Pembroke). The session is an introductory meeting and will provide an update regarding OHTs in the province.