

Hello ECMS Members:

I hope everyone is doing reasonably well at this time. This is a dense email, and will cover the following topics:

- 1) PPE - Needs Assessment
- 2) COVID Testing Criteria
- 3) COVID-19 Navigator Tool
- 4) COVID-19 Deaths
- 5) COVID-19 Pandemic Planning
- 6) COVID-19 Govt of Canada Benefits
- 7) Social Media Campaign for Social Isolation

1) PPE

The availability of Personal Protective Equipment has been an ongoing concern for many. At this time, it is important that we understand what supplies we have, how many supplies are typically used by you/your clinic, and what supplies people need (what types - masks/gowns/gloves/etc, and how much). Knowing what we have, how much we use, and how much we need at any given time is a vital step in the procurement of new supplies.

Kristy McBeth and Katie Bondy from the WECHU will be working together to coordinate and organize PPE for our area, which is to include PPE for community providers. **Please connect with Kristy/Katie via email. Let them know what is your current stock, how much you are using daily/weekly, if you are aware of any sources for donation, and if you are in need of supplies urgently.** kmcbeth@wechu.org

At this point there is no way to guarantee the longterm availability of all types of PPE in all settings, however the hope is that in coordinating this effort, we can ensure the best outcomes across the board to keep everyone on the front lines protected.

Please find attached to this email a March 25 memo from ON Health re: Recommendations on the use and conservation of PPE. Please direct your attention to the following:

Page 3 outlines the use of N95 respirators for care of individuals with suspected/confirmed COVID-19, and is broken down by practice setting.

Page 6 provides guidelines for use of procedural/surgical masks by health care providers.

Page 9 discusses strategies for conserving PPE, which is important given the current availability of supplies.

Page 11 of the guide discusses preparation for last-resort scenarios. This point discusses expired N95 masks for last resort back-up or low-risk settings.

We were contacted by a member who noted that pandemic "emergency kits" were distributed around the time of SARS. The contents of these kits may be expired at this point, but if you received one of

these kits, it may be worthwhile to donate it, as its contents could potentially be used in a last-resort scenario.

2) COVID Testing Criteria

Please note that testing criteria for COVID-19 changed earlier this week. We have had requests to clarify who is eligible for and who should be tested. As you aware, this is a fluid situation, and these criteria may change. On Thursday March 26, Dr. Ahmed provided the following guidance:

We received the updated Public health case and contact management document from the ministry last night.

The testing criteria is now more open and do not put restriction on travel outside of Canada. The decision to test individual is now based on a clinical assessment only. If testing capacity is an issue then they are asking to prioritize the following group.

- Symptomatic healthcare workers and staff who work in healthcare
- Symptomatic residents and staff in LTC and retirement homes
- Hospitalized patients admitted with respiratory symptoms

The rationale to test these individuals is due to the impact on the clinical management based on the test results. For all mild cases, home isolation is all they need.

3) COVID-19 Navigator Tool

A team of providers in London-Middlesex have developed a COVID-19 Navigator Tool. The Tool is an online screening process that is based on the provincial self-assessment tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0> Patients concerned about COVID-19 can complete the screening process, and based on the risk-level of a positive screen, they may either be directed to self-isolate, or else directed to a virtual care provider who can provide more management guidance.

The Tool is a valuable means by which to ensure patients suffering from COVID-19 symptoms can be assessed and managed in the community/virtually, thereby maintaining valuable hospital capacity for those patients who require hospital services. There is ongoing work to bring a similar Tool to Windsor-Essex, and we will keep you updated.

4) COVID-19 Deaths

Please find attached to this email document which provides guidance for certifying COVID-19 deaths.

5) COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Action Tables

As you are likely aware, the local hospitals have pandemic planning teams. The Non-Hospital sector also has a planning committee, which is comprised of 8 "Action Tables" including primary care/community/screening, homecare, LTC/retirement home, unconventional residential, EMS, Public Health, MEOC, and digital. The hospital and non-hospital leads are in communication with one another, as well as the regional steering CTE. The purpose of the Non-Hospital team is to ensure strong coordination of communication and consistency of practice across the Non-Hospital sector. If you would like any further information on the Non-Hospital Action Tables, please email me and I would be happy to discuss.

6) COVID-19 Benefits

Dr. Padma Naidu has shared with us some resources from the Government of Canada that may be of use to those affected by COVID-19:

Canada Emergency Response Benefit Program <https://cupe.ca/canada-emergency-response-benefit-qa>

COVID-19 Benefits Program <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-income-supports-covid19-1.5509247>

7) Social Media Campaign for Social Isolation

Recently, two of our members, Dr. Eli Malus and Dr. Jessica Summerfield, as well as some of our valuable nursing colleagues, were pictured at the WRH Assessment Centre, and these photos were posted to the OMA's facebook page. We have heard from the OMA that these photos were incredibly well received. Here is a message from Frank Rubini, the OMA's Regional Manager for the South West:

I know there's a lot going on, but some physicians have requested unique ideas to help spread the message of social isolation. We're seeing Doctors around the world duplicating photos like the ones [attached] and posting them to social media.

The messages, "WE STAY AT WORK FOR YOU" "YOU STAY HOME FOR US" have a powerful impact coming from

those on the front lines of this crisis. ... If you wish to participate, just send your photos to me and I will get them out, but everyone and anyone could post to their own social channels as well.

Attached to this email are 2 photo examples, as well as pre-formatted signs developed by the OMA that you may print for use in your photos. If you have any photos you'd like to share, please forward them to me, and I can pass them on to Frank.

If you should have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me.

Kind regards,
Jen

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