

Enriching life's journey together.

The Board held a shorter than normal meeting via teleconference to receive an update on COVID-19 preparations and address some board business.

Cultivating quality care that is patient centred, timely, efficient, effective, equitable and safe.

COVID-19

- LMH able to surge from 39 to 47 Inpatient beds; WDH able to surge from 32 to 42 Inpatient beds.
- Clinical staffing has temporarily increased in Inpatient units and Emergency departments at both sites.
- Environmental Services has increased its staffing to provide 24 hour coverage.
- Other departments have reviewed capacity planning for worst-case scenarios.
- Leaders have assessed single incumbent positions and have identified potential options for coverage of long term sick leaves and absences.
- ICU capacity planning is being managed by Critical Care Ontario. They have developed the ethical framework for ICU surge, a draft document that has been shared with teams across the region.
- Stratford has been designated as the ICU centre for Huron and Perth. Their surge plan involves procuring additional ventilators and providing training for staff.
- Both sites have developed plans for the admissions of positive or suspected positive cases.
- All hospitals are required to have negative pressure rooms available. Steve Baxter and the Maintenance department have successfully installed temporary negative pressure spaces in patient care areas.
- Staff and physician training and mock codes have been conducted.
- Additional staff have been using time for project work and orientation to other departments.

Medical Staff Privileges

The Board approved the extension of professional staff privileges for one year based on applications and renewals received for last fiscal year.

Quality Improvement Plan

Health Quality Ontario has paused the submission of Quality Improvement Plans to allow the health care system to focus on the response to COVID-19. They will still accept the submission of any completed QIPs.

Cultivating a workplace that nurtures individual and collective potential.

Vice President Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Executive

We look forward to Kelly Finlayson joining us on April 23. Kelly was the Director of Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre. We appreciate the dedicated effort of Justine Leslie in the acting Chief Nursing Executive role for the last several weeks.

COVID Staff Safety – C. Dolmage

- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee has been meeting weekly to educate, review updates, and identify training opportunities.
- Developing a plan to fit-test some staff to the 8210 masks that are available across province. Current mask fit-testing compliance is at 99% (LMH) and 97% (WDH).
- Staff are receiving training for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (donning and doffing, monitoring peers).
- Environmental Services required to wear additional PPE if entering a patient environment.
- Utilizing the Organizational Risk Assessment document to track strategies that address various risks, as well as precautionary measures being implemented for staff.
- IPAC Coordinator is consulting on case management, liaising with Public Health, involved with contact tracing, and has developed an updated Outbreak Management policy.
- Employee Assistance Program continues to be available for staff.
- A number of strategies have been implemented to support staff, including manager rounding, an end of day reflection, and time for wellness.
- The Family Health Teams have distributed a weekly wellness series related to mental health and burnout prevention. An additional resource being utilized is the Coronavirus Anxiety Workbook (link in daily update).
- A temporary order for health service providers was issued in order to facilitate the redeployment of staff.
- Bill 186 outlines the Emergency Leave as related to infectious disease (i.e. self-isolation).
- ONA bargaining has been deferred, C. Dolmage is hopeful to complete bargaining in June.
- LWHA has recruited an additional 23 employees (12 specific to COVID-19), while offering a condensed corporate orientation.

Staff safety has been a strong focus of our preparations for COVID-19.

Cultivating a sustainable and resilient environment that is here for future generations.

Ministry of Finance and Ontario Health

All hospitals have been promised a minimum of 1% global budget increase for 2020/2021. In addition, one time funding of 1% received last fall has been annualized in our base funding.

The Board approved operating budgets for 2020/2021. With the increases in funding, both hospitals anticipate having balanced financial positions for this fiscal year.

Hospital Infrastructure Renewal Funding which would have typically been required to be spent by March 31st has been carried over into the 2020/2021 fiscal year in order to allow hospital to complete projects delayed or impacted by COVID-19.

Although there is no budget approval process defined by Ontario Health, we will seek Board approval of our operating budget for 2020/21.

All hospitals have some financial risks related to increased staffing and expenditures related to COVID-19. There was a sense of urgency to prepare and verbal instructions and reassurances were received from Ontario Health to proceed. No written documentation has been received

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with respect to Ontario Health's commitment to fund the expenditures.

Wingham Redevelopment

Construction has continued on the Wingham Hospital redevelopment. Construction is anticipated to be completed in mid May. Ductwork installed through the new area in order to create additional negative air pressure spaces in emergency will be removed to allow completion of the construction. Temporary negative pressure spaces will still be available. There are 7 large, very functional ambulatory care spaces for specialist and ambulatory care.

Cultivating partnerships to offer a seamless patient experience.

Annual Community Newsletter

We will not be publishing a Community Newsletter this year. Listowel and Wingham Foundation will still be publishing spring newsletters.

North Huron Neighbourhood of Care Project

The North Huron Neighbourhood of Care Project was put on hold as a result of COVID-19.

Huron Perth Ontario Health Team

The Huron Perth Ontario Health Team continues to hold weekly teleconferences throughout the COVID-19 period. There are some common approaches to Infection Control, Testing Centres and Personal Protective Equipment.

North Huron and North Perth Family Health Team

We have been grateful for the support of the North Huron and North Perth Family Health Team to plan and prepare for the establishment of a community testing centre. In consultation with Huron Perth Public Health, plans have been created for a single centre in the Outpatient Building in Listowel.