

Grisafi Ewelina

From: Medical Staff Association
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Medical Staff Association
Subject: Physician Newsletter - February 11, 2022
Attachments: COVID-Guidance_staff-physicians-chart-2022.02.03.pdf

Importance: High

From: Stacey Michael Dr. <staceymi@HHSC.CA>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 7:34 AM
Subject: Physician Newsletter - February 11, 2022
Importance: High

Friday, February 11, 2022



Department of Medical Affairs

Physician Updates

PLEASE NOTE: All hyperlinks are ONLY accessible through Citrix

COVID-19 Positive Cases at a Glance (HHS)*

Site	Number of Positive Cases	ICU	Ward
HGH	39	4	35
JH	28	4	24
MUMC	6	2	4
St. Peter's	4		
WLMH	1		
SHF	2		
Rehab	6		
Total	86		

*updated morning of Feb 11

Critical Care Support at HGH & JH

Since **January 4 at 0700**, the critical care supports below have been put in place at HHS. This plan is being reassessed during the week of February 14th and will be updated as appropriate.

1700-0700 at JH

- **In-house PCB physician** covering the site*

1700-0700 at HGH

- **In-house nighttime ICU physician** covering the designated COVID ICU (South)
- Nighttime ICU physician will respond to site needs (covering usual PCB calls)

*Reminder that physicians are **not be permitted to submit G-code modifier during the time of PCB coverage**. As such, a **G-code modifier cannot be applied at the JH between 1700-0700**.

HHS Staff and Physicians Affected by COVID

(Information and numbers from February 7, 2022)

Number of absences R/T COVID: **65**

Number of staff in isolation: **186**

Number of Redeployed staff: **293**

Sources for redeployment:

- UCC staff
 - Project Odyssey staff
 - OR staff
 - Pain Clinic staff
 - HIU staff
-

COVID-19 Steps for Staff and Physicians

Self-isolation, testing and return to work guidelines are **attached** or available here: [Read More](#)

Closure of the West End Clinic COVID-19 Assessment and Testing Centre

The COVID-19 assessment clinic at the HHS West End Clinic (WEC, located at 690 Main Street West, Hamilton) will end its activities on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 5 pm.

Although the clinic was dedicated to HCW as well as symptomatic household members of HCW, it has been running significantly below capacity. In addition, there are no expected changes to provincial testing guidance that would result in a significant increase for accessing PCR testing. Furthermore, HHS also launched a self-collection PCR swab process across our sites.

As a result of these changes, staff that have been assigned to the WEC COVID-19 assessment centre will return to their home units across HHS. Those who may have been hired specifically to staff the clinic may be deployed to support areas in need.

NOTE: The Urgent Care Centre at the WEC remains temporarily closed.

What this means

Eligible individuals, including healthcare workers and members of their households, are still able to book appointments at the testing centre (1565 Upper James Street) run by St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.

- [Appointments can be booked online](#)
- The clinic operates seven days a week:
 - Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm
 - Saturday & Sunday, 8 am to 4 pm

HCW (and family members if they are symptomatic) may require a PCR test if they are:

- Symptomatic (also applies to members of the same household)
- Asymptomatic (HCW only) and have had exposure to a known COVID-positive individual.

If you meet the criteria, please book your [testing appointment online](#), and:

- Contact Employee Health Services (EHS) at extension 42200 to leave your name, employee ID Number and phone number and confirmation that you have booked your test. EHS will contact you with further instructions.
- If you are symptomatic, you must self-isolate and await further instructions from EHS

More information on healthcare workers' guidance on testing, isolation and return to work, [is available here](#).

Confidential Reporting of Vaccination Status (Booster)

Everyone at HHS who is eligible and able to do so, is encouraged to receive the booster vaccine (third dose of the COVID vaccine).

Once they have received a third dose, staff and physicians are invited to update their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Healthcare workers can [report their booster shot HERE](#).

New "Employee & Family Assistance Program" for Staff and Physicians

On March 1, 2022 HHS will transition to a new Employee & Family Assistance Program (EFAP) provider, **Homewood Health**. We understand that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of our staff, physicians, and residents and have negotiated a robust support package that will provide a wide variety of responsive services such as Trauma Care, Depression Care, and Leader Consultation Support. In addition, our new EFAP services include coaching and counseling to support life balance and health, and other professional services such as legal and financial consultations.

The EFAP is a free confidential program available to all staff, physicians, residents, and their qualifying family members.

This transition will not interrupt any services you may be receiving with your existing counsellor through **Lifeworks** and will also allow you to engage in services with Homewood Health EFAP should you wish to do so. [Read More](#)

New Chief of Laboratory Medicine

We are very pleased to share the news that Dr. Menaka Pai will become Chief of Laboratory Medicine at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) on May 1, 2022. She will also be Medical Director of the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program (HRMLP).

[Read More](#)

Project Odyssey Updates

Audio Update

The latest [two-minute audio update](#) from Dr. Barry Lumb covers the Go-Live Readiness Assessment (GLRA) 120 held on Feb. 2 and other readiness activities planned for the coming months to help staff and physicians prepare for go-live. [Listen now](#) on HHS' website.

Training Reminder

Epic eLearning is available now for all physicians. eLearning is mandatory and must be completed before in-class training begins in April.

Need to do:

- [Log into myLearning](#). myLearning is available outside of Citrix.
- Go to My Courses in the navigation menu.
- Watch the Epic training modules relevant to your role.
- Complete the required Epic eLearning videos by **April 4**.
- For any questions, email ProviderEpicTraining@hhsc.ca

[Learn more](#) about what's required for physician training.

Share Your Awareness About Project Odyssey

Please take a few minutes to answer [a short survey](#) about your awareness of Project Odyssey.

Process for Claiming Home Office Expenses for Individuals Working from Home

Similar to the 2020 tax year and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has simplified the method employees can claim home office expenses on their personal

income tax return for the 2021 tax year.

[Read More](#) (Must be in Citrix)

February 10th Town Hall Recording Available

Rob Maclsaac, President and CEO, and senior leaders give updates on Operations, Epidemiology and Project Odyssey. The video has been segmented into presentations for your viewing convenience.

[Watch the Full Video](#)



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