

## Grisafi Ewelina

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**From:** Stacey Michael Dr.  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 7:37 AM  
**Subject:** Physician Newsletter - January 21, 2022  
**Attachments:** COVID Guidance\_staff-physicians chart\_2022.01.06\_FINAL.pdf

**Importance:** High

Friday, January 21, 2022



## Department of Medical Affairs

### Physician Updates

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

Site	Number of Positive Cases	ICU	Ward
HGH	66	10	56
JH	87	10	77
MUMC	14	4	10
St. Peter's	12		
WLMH	6		
SHF	4		
Rehab	8		
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>		

\*updated morning of distribution

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#### Critical Care Support at HGH & JH

Starting **January 4 at 0700**, the following critical care supports have been put in place at HHS:

##### 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**. Please see the excerpt from the MOH funding guidelines below. As such, a **G-code modifier cannot be applied at the JH between 1700-0700**.

## Enhanced Medical Support at JH

Starting January 22<sup>nd</sup> and until February 4<sup>th</sup>, the evening GIM/COVID physician shift at JH will be extended until midnight to continue to support COVID patients and help the SMR with ED admits/consults. GIM and ED leaders will continue to reassess the need to continue this support. We are also monitoring the needs at the General and considering starting an evening GIM shift if needed.

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## West End Clinic moving to “PCR testing only” location

The assessment clinic at the HHS West End Clinic (WEC, located at 690 Main Street West, Hamilton) will shift its operations to only provide COVID PCR testing to [eligible individuals](#), [including healthcare workers](#) (HCW), beginning on January 17, 2022. What this means:

- From Monday, January 17, HCW and their **household members who are symptomatic** will be able to book online for testing at the West End Clinic or the SJHH testing centre (1565 Upper James Street, Hamilton, the former Future Shop location).
  - Appointments [can be booked online](#).
  - The clinic will operate seven days a week from 9 am to 5 pm.
- The WEC will cease to administer doses of the COVID vaccines as of Sunday, January 16, 2022 (i.e. Sunday will be the last vaccination day).
  - NOTE: until then the clinic will continue to offer vaccinations to eligible HCW from HHS and St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) and eligible household members including those 12+ years of age (first/second dose). Third doses available for ages 18+. More [information is available here](#).
  - Vaccination, including through walk-in clinics, is [available at various locations](#) across the Hamilton area.

**NOTE: the assessment clinic will remain open at the WEC site despite the temporary closure of the Urgent Care Centre at the same location.**

## What this means – Employee Health Services process

This change means that HCW can access timely testing appointments. HCW (and household 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

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## Accelerated return to work

To further mitigate extraordinary staffing shortages, the provincial government has [issued guidance](#) to facilitate earlier return-to-work of healthcare workers who previously tested positive for COVID-19, with additional measures in place for those staff considered “low risk”.

This includes COVID positive staff who:

- are asymptomatic or have symptoms resolving at the time (staff who never developed symptoms will be prioritized); AND
- are fully vaccinated (staff with three doses will be prioritized); AND
- produce one negative PCR test **OR** two consecutive negative daily rapid antigen tests (RATs) collected 24 hours apart from day 6 onward from last exposure (e.g. employee can return as early as day 7 so long as day 6 & 7 RATs are negative)

These measures will be implemented on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of program leadership and only where other mitigation efforts, such as staff deployment, have already been applied.

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## Asymptomatic healthcare worker (HCW) COVID-19 PCR testing: new on-site self-collection process

### What's new

Beginning Monday, January 24, **asymptomatic healthcare workers (HCWs)** who are on outbreak units and are required to undergo regular point prevalence testing, or those who have experienced a high-risk COVID-19 exposure, will begin a new on-site self-collection process.

HCWs will continue to first contact **Employee Health Services (EHS)**, and will then be directed, if required, to follow this self-collection process. Identified HCWs are to complete the test and drop it off at one of the designated drop-off locations listed below instead of going to an assessment centre. Asymptomatic HCWs who self-collect can continue to work on their unit while awaiting their results.

**NB: Symptomatic HCWs** will continue to follow the [existing process, booking](#) (must be on Citrix) an appointment at the West End Assessment Centre for a PCR test

### What's the process?

Identified asymptomatic HCWs who require testing will:

- Obtain oral / nasal swab from their site's pick up/drop-off location

- **Accurately complete the requisition form provided in the kit (this is imperative)**
- Manually write on white label on the swab container in pen:
  - two identifiers: Name (as identified on your Health Card) and DOB (must be in format: day/month/year)
  - specimen collection date: (also in format: day/month/year)
- Self-collect oral and nasal specimen using process outlined in attached “Oral-Nasal Swab Instructions” and video: [Oral + Nasal Swab Instructions - YouTube](#) (must be on Citrix)
- Proceed to designated drop-off location – there is no time limit between swab and drop-off

## Locations

Site	Pick up/Drop off location	Dates/Time
Hamilton General Hospital	Patient Registration	Mon-Fri 0800-2300. After hours and weekends, can leave specimen in the drop box.
Juravinski Hospital	Patient Registration	Mon-Fri 0800-2300. After hours and weekends, can leave specimen in the drop box.
McMaster Children’s Hospital	Patient Registration	Mon-Fri 0800-2300. After hours and weekends, can leave specimen in the drop box.
St. Peter’s Hospital	Centre for Healthy Aging	Mon-Fri 0800-1600. After house and weekends, please bring specimen to an acute care site.
West Lincoln Memorial Hospital	Report to the switchboard office for the label. The self-collection kits will be located in the Computer Lab room (adjacent to the lab)	Mon-Fri 0800-1500. After hours and weekends, staff bring to the ED.
Satellite Health Facility	To be determined week of January 24	To be determined week of January 24
Urgent Care Clinic	Assessment Centre <b>*Drop off only*</b>	7 days a week 0900-1700.

## Mobile Staff and Physician Vaccination Clinics

HHS will be hosting mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics across all of our sites for eligible staff, physicians and residents.

Mobile clinics will run at each of our sites on a rotating schedule, from 1000 – 1600. Bring your health card. No appointment necessary.

## Mobile clinic dates and locations

January 25- MUMC, 4F red section (take the red elevators to the 4th floor, come off the elevator turn left, we are the first door on the right)

January 26- SHF, P3 Conference Room

January 27- JH, Atrium

January 28- HGH, beside Retail Pharmacy

February 1- WLMH, Swing Space

February 2- SPH, Multi-Purpose Room (down the corridor between staff entrance and main lobby)

February 3- JH, Atrium

February 4- HGH, beside Retail Pharmacy

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## Reporting a Booster – Use Chrome

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](#)

## Important note

Staff and physicians should use the Google Chrome browser to access the Employee Health Services Online Reporting Tool (CORITY). Internet Explorer is no longer supported by the platform.

Here's the full URL if you need to import the link into another browser:

<https://hhsc.my.cority.com/#/questionnaire/medicalpublicqrhstandaloneportal?questionnaireId=361>

**Just copy and paste**

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## Have a Beverage on HHS

We invite you to enjoy a complimentary beverage **today through to January 26 at 11:30 p.m.** Please visit your Volunteer Association cafeteria or café locations at your respective site to get a regular size coffee, tea or bottled water. Each staff member is welcome to have one beverage per shift for the above outlined duration. This is a small token of acknowledgment to help you get you through this time.

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## Peer-to-peer Recognition

If you have a moment, please consider recognizing a colleague to boost their spirits. E-cards are available on the [HUB](#) to share solidarity and appreciation with your fellow healthcare colleagues. [Share an E-card](#) (Must be in Citrix)

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## Technical Dress Rehearsal for Epic Devices

The Odyssey team will conduct a series of tests on all devices to be used with Epic, starting with a small pilot at McMaster University Medical Centre from **February 7-11**, then continue across all sites starting **February 28**. Staff and physicians can expect minimal disruption to patient care during this period.

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

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## Town Hall Recording Available

Rob MacIsaac, President and CEO, and senior leaders talk about operations, redeployment and resiliency support resources. The video has been broken into segments for your viewing convenience.

[Watch the Full Video](#)

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