

MNCYN Regional Perinatal & Paediatric COVID-19 Update

DATE March 17, 2021

1500-1600

WebEx

Moderator: Leanne McArthur (MNCYN)

Present: Gwen Peterek (MNCYN), Kristine Fraser (MNCYN), Anita Bunnie (MNCYN), Sheila Johnston, Cailin McMeekin, Colleen Ford, Jackie Mitchell, Katie Wheeler, Melissa Rathwell, Leanne Paton, Marie Greer-King, Penny Lipstik, Kyna Patterson, Tihana, S. Williams, Wendy Edwards, Teresa Bruni, Alissa

Item #1: Welcome/Regional Updates, COVID-19 Cases (Leanne McArthur)

Welcome to everyone attending today. It's been a month since our last connect.

Discussion: Update of Current COVID-19 Cases Within the Region

LOCATION	Total Cases Mar 17, 2021	RECOVERED Mar 17, 2021	DEATHS Mar 17, 2021	OTHER STATS Mar 17, 2021	Differences Since Last Update Meeting Feb 17, 2021
LONDON- MIDDLESEX	6476	6134	185	New Cases in 24H: 19	434 New Cases 4 New Deaths
WINDSOR- ESSEX	13,475	12,801	401		793 New Cases 46 New Deaths
CHATHAM- KENT	1,452	1,378	9		119 New Cases 0 New Deaths
ST. THOMAS- Elgin-Oxford	2,649	2,510	67		208 New Cases 3 New Deaths
LAMBTON	2,451	2,225	47		482 New Cases 1 New Deaths
HURON- PERTH	1,389	1,318	50		86 New Cases 1 New Deaths
GREY-BRUCE	733	716	2	As @Mar 16/21	46 New Cases 1 New Deaths
MICHIGAN	612,628		15,810	As @Mar 16/21	36,364 New Cases 633 New Deaths
*Detroit	31,015		1,855	As @Mar16/21	4,776 New Cases 152 New Deaths
ONTARIO Last updated Mar.17, 2021	321,956	302,257	7,187	741 in hospital 300 ICU 190 Vent	33,373 New Cases 458 New Deaths

- We are seeing a significant rise in some areas of our region, particularly in variant cases. We do recognize those public health units, are intervening and addressing the framework

and where they will be aligned. Kattie Wheeler indicated that 49% of all new cases in Ontario are variants.

- Updates for PCMCH: Continue to work towards revising and or potentially updating any guidelines and standards as evidence continues to evolve. Currently, there's been no new updates or need to recirculate.

Item #2: MNCYN Perinatal Program Update (Gwen Peterek)

PCMCH Infographic: "I am pregnant or breastfeeding. Should I get the COVID-19 Vaccine?"

- Discusses options, benefits, risk, recommendations, breastfeeding, considerations if a woman gets pregnant after getting the vaccine, considerations if planning a pregnancy
- Available on the PCMCH webpage
https://www.pcmch.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID-19-Vaccine-Infographic-2021_03_08.pdf
- Posted on MNCYN COVID webpage under "Vaccinations"

PCMCH COVID-19 Guideline Task Force Recommendations to Address Gaps in Prenatal Care System

- [PCMCH Recommendations to Address Gaps in Prenatal Care System Report from the COVID-19 Prenatal Care Task Force 13.01.2021 \(PDF\)](#)
- Task Force has identified a number of concerns related to the delivery of safe and equitable prenatal care for both patients and providers in Ontario which have been further exacerbated for specific populations during the pandemic
- They have created a document of recommendations addressing issues related to:
 - Lack of investment in community-based perinatal care, particularly in rural and remote communities.
 - Lack of engagement regarding community-based solutions to end the routine evacuation of Indigenous people from remote communities for birth.
 - Lack of funding and basic primary care in marginalized communities, particularly in Northern, rural, remote and urban underserved settings.
 - Lack of investment in an Indigenous cultural safety strategy for non-Indigenous health care provider
- This is posted on the MNCYN COVID webpage under "Perinatal" tab

Vaccine update

The province has announced a shift to increase the interval between first and second COVID-19 vaccination doses to 112 days - includes all health care workers

- This is supported by [National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#).
- Intended to maximize the number of individuals benefiting from the first dose.

Item #3: Regional Perinatal Q & A and Open Discussion

- **Questions: Have any sites seen an increase in Covid positive cases within your birthing units?** Most of the attendees indicated no they have not seen an increase in the birthing units.
- Dr. Teresa Bruni from Thunder Bay: "hot spot", starting to see the Covid positive moms. They have a C-section scheduled for tomorrow for a recently positive mom. Concerned trying to be prepared for what may be coming with regards to the pandemic. MNCYN. And

the region, willing to facilitate any discussions, conversations, supports whatever the region and particularly Thunder Bay may need to be supported.

- **Question for Dr. Bruni – Indicated that many of the Covid cases resolved- are you seeing any sequelae, maternal or neonatal of those that have recovered? Answer:** No have not seen anything like this.

Item #4: Children’s Hospital Updates (Kyna Patterson)

- As of today, we are moving towards our limited visitor policy compared to our essential visitor policy. This means all paediatric inpatients can have two caregivers at the bedside vs only one for essential visitor policy. They still must be the same caregivers throughout the day.
- March 15, 2021 the Child & Adolescent Mental Health has moved from Parkwood over to Children’s Hospital.
- March 1, 2021, had a ‘soft’ launch of the Paediatric Sleep Lab. Continuing to assess process as they move to a “go live” which has not been determined as of yet.
- **Question: With the mental health integration, have you seen an influx of cases as a result of covid and the pandemic? Answer:** Yes, there is an influx of children and adolescents seeking immediate mental health services and support based on experience in the acute inpatient area.
- **Question from Thunder Bay – with the new visitor policy limit of 2 does that apply to transport as well and do you want two people from TB going to your center? Should I let Paeds. know here and I will inform my manager and perhaps there can be some offline discussion around this.** For outpatients, there remains only one caregiver at the bedside. With transport they are brought to ED first and they will ask only one caregiver at the bedside but after they are admitted then two caregivers can be at the bedside.
- **Question for Thunder Bay - With transport are the families required to isolate for 14 days when they return to the region of Thunder Bay.** They do have to isolate, but if patient is being repatriated to our inpatient unit they can still be with the family, they just have to take appropriate precautions.

Action Item:

1. Kristine Fraser will coordinate a discussion with Lynanne Mason for Dr. Bruni and Kyna Patterson. To further discuss the visitor policy for Children’s Hospital. Addendum: This discussion has occurred with Lynanne Mason. “Yes, Children’s can accommodate, no matter what phase of the Visitor Policy we would be in. Leadership can approve exceptions if needed and we can maintain IPAC guidelines, so 2 at any time from our regional partners would be a reasonable ask”.

Item #6: MNCYN Paediatric Updates (Kristine Fraser)

Canadian Strategy for Vaccines & Children

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7699261/moderna-vaccine-study-kids/>

- We know that children under the age of 19 make up approx. 17% (16.9%) of all reported cases of COVID-19 in Canada (152, 578)

- [Moderna](#) has begun testing its [COVID-19 vaccine](#) in children between six months and 12 years old, but experts in Canada are not optimistic we'll see approvals for adolescents anytime soon
- On Tuesday (March 16th), Moderna started a mid-to-late stage study of its vaccine, intends to enroll about 6,750 children in the United States and Canada.
- In a separate study, which began in December, Moderna is also testing its vaccine in adolescents between 12 and 18 years old.
- The other vaccine manufacturers are either looking into beginning clinical trials in children or have already started (Pfizer & Moderna started, J&J has not yet begun recruiting patients) <https://globalnews.ca/news/7694697/covid-vaccines-children/>

Schools & COVID-19

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-schools-will-be-forced-to-close-again-as-spread-of-covid-19-variant-increases-infectious-disease-expert-says-1.5344861>

- Questions about whether schools in Ontario will be forced to shut down again to slow the surge of variant cases in the province.
- Multiple schools in SW ON have cases, some of which have been forced to close out of an abundance of caution.
- Easter approaching, delayed March Break (April 12th week), Mother's Day etc. All concerning until more people can be vaccinated.

Paediatric Cases in Ontario Schools as of March 17th @1030

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres>):

- **Total # of School-Related Cases in Past 14 Days:** 1,603 (179 reported today)
- **Total # of Schools with Reported Case(s):** 909 (18.8%)
- **Total # of School Closures:** 31
- **Total # of Cases in Child Care Centres in Past 14 Days:** 369 (52 reported today)
- **Total # of Day Care Centres with Reported Case(s):** 208
- **Total # of Day Care Closures:** 49

Item #7: Paediatric Regional Q & A and Open Discussion

None heard.

Item #8: Does the Region want to continue with the Covid-19 Update WebEx's?

- There was an indication by majority to continue with the monthly WebEx.
- Will meet in another month, unless there is a need to meet sooner in order to disseminate updates based on new updates.

Adjourned: 15:22 hrs.