



Regional Covid19 All-Staff Update

By Southern Health-Santé Sud
Jane Curtis – CEO
April 29, 2020

Hello, I'm Jane Curtis, CEO of Southern Health-Santé Sud, and this is the regional All-Staff Update released April 29, 2020.

Stay Informed

- Please note that these regional COVID-19 Audio Updates highlight only some of the most recent information.
- Please visit the [Southern Health-Santé Sud](#) Health Providers Site (HPS for short) to view all available information and resources.
- A direct link is also available directly from our public website southernhealth.ca for ease of access.

Clinical Response

- Public Health Officials have now expanded the COVID-19 testing criteria to include all symptomatic individuals.

Memo: [COVID-19 – expanded testing criteria – All Symptomatic Individuals](#)

- New provincial guidelines for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been posted on the HPS COVID-19 page - under Resources for Staff. A link is provided in the April 29 script.

Webpage: [COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)

- Effective May 1, nursing and support staff working in licensed personal care homes will be moving to a single-site staffing model. Further communication on this has been provided to all staff impacted by these changes.
- New documents have been released for providing information and guidance for health care workers with underlying medical conditions and potential risk factors for severe COVID-19. A link is provided in the April 29 script.

Memo: [COVID-19 – Information for Health Care Workers with Underlying Medical Conditions and Potential Risk Factors for Severe COVID-19](#)

- Effective April 24, all staff or physicians requiring screening are requested to only call their site Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner or designate during regular business hours or on call on weekends.

Memo: [COVID-19 Employee Occupational Health Screening](#)

So again, I would like to share some great stories of staff doing great things and examples of communities support for health care workers.

- Bethesda Place has implemented Window Visitations with overwhelming success. Family and friends of residents can schedule a time to connect by phone and see their loved ones through the window. Staff have reported that it has been very heartwarming to see families connect and share things visually.



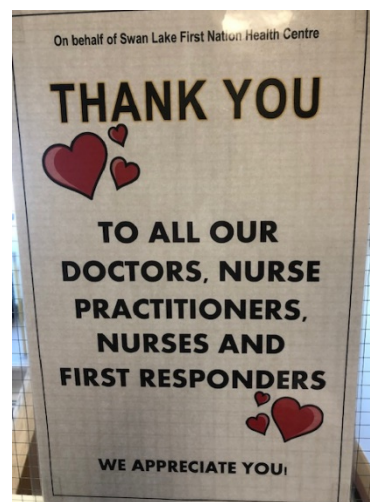
Staff at Bethesda Place sharing a visual of the Visitation Window.

Source: Debbie Rigaux, Client Services Manager; verbal consent to share was provided by all individuals in this photo.

- Pictures displaying posters of thanks at Portage District General Hospital and Lorne Memorial Hospital are included in the April 29 script.



Thank you posters displayed at Portage District General Hospital.



Thank you posters courtesy of Swan Lake First Nation Health Centre displayed at Lorne Memorial Hospital.

In times of immense change, many people turn to different things to help them cope. I have always found comfort in music and have recently started sharing a song of the day with my family and friends. I have found it to be an effective way of connecting in these times when we can't be together.

- On that theme, I encourage you to search for Canadian artists singing 'Lean on Me' on YouTube. A link to the [YouTube video](#) is included in the April 29 script.

I am going to wrap up with a quote from Drake, the Toronto-based hip-hop artist, who recently thanked front line workers.

"It is incredible to see people who have to leave their families every day and go to work amidst this crisis, as dangerous as this is, [they are the] glue holding us together. So thank you, thank you very much for that." (Drake)

Thank you for listening to this update, stay safe and take care.