COVID-19 Update #24

I know the work you are doing is critically important. And it has not gone unnoticed by our community. We are seeing “signs” of support on social media and throughout the neighborhoods we serve. This morning, this sign appeared in the Civic hospital neighborhood and it echoes my sentiments too.

If you have any messages or photos from the community that you’d like to share, please send them to Communications at communications@toh.ca.

This morning, Ontario Public Health reported 2,392 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, with Ottawa Public health confirming 194 cases in Ottawa. There are, 652 patients admitted to TOH, 10 of whom are COVID-19 positive, 3 in intensive care and 7 in acute care.

Personal protective equipment supplies (PPE)

Many of you have asked how we are managing the supply of PPE. The supply chain process starts with TOH continuing to work with its vendors and other suppliers directly, to acquire as many supplies as possible. It was also a pleasant surprise to see our community step forward with its generous contributions.

The hospital continuously monitors its supplies and if deemed to be running low, the regional supply office will provide more. If the region’s supply runs low, we reach out to the province. The province works with the federal government, should it be needed. This process is a safeguard for equitable distribution of PPE across the province. It is up to us to continue to use our supplies judiciously.
**Regional patient flow**

Yesterday, I informed you that we are working with our partner hospitals across the Champlain region to create a regional patient flow plan for patients requiring emergent specialized services. In addition, we are working with partners to increase bed capacity for post-acute care patients both in hospital and community settings. This will enable our region to increase our capacity to care for both the increase in COVID-19 patients while ensuring that emergent care of patients is available when they need it.

**Physical distancing**

I would like to remind you to please adhere to the public health directives at all times with regards to physical distancing outside of our hospital, for example when on break, or getting some fresh air. As a health care worker, it is critical to lead by example.

**Non-essential travel into Western Quebec**

As is being widely reported in the news, the Quebec government announced that beginning at noon today it is banning non-essential travel into Quebec. Hospital workers are essential and therefore exempt. However, you must be prepared to show evidence of your employment, so please ensure you have your hospital ID badge with you at all times. Please email human resources at labourrelations@toh.ca if you have any issues crossing the border so we can support you.