COVID-19 Update #15

This morning, Ontario Public Health reported 489 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario. Twenty-two of these are in Ottawa, and four of them are receiving care at TOH. I want to reiterate that proper hand hygiene is imperative as is social distancing, to help protect the hospital and reduce the spread in the community.

**COVID-19 laboratory testing**
We are aware that some people are waiting several days to receive their tests results. Additional laboratory capacity is coming on-line, beginning today. The [Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association (EORLA)](https://www.eorla.ca) is ramping up its COVID-19 testing. This will increase the capacity for in our region and decrease the wait times for test results.

**Clinical care continuity plans**
Like all other hospitals in the province, TOH has developed clinical care continuity plans for each of its service lines. These include what essential hospital services will need to be provided during the pandemic as well as surge plans to care for an influx of COVID-19 patients. Our service line leaders have been adjusting their plans based on the evolving outbreak. I will keep you posted on further developments, as needed.

**Essential supplies and equipment**
As previously stated, we monitor our stock of supplies daily. We are also working with our health partners in the region and provincially to maintain our stock of supplies. Our community has stepped forward, like many others across the province. We are receiving donations of supplies from people in healthcare, education, technology and the construction industry. We are grateful for the community support.

As this outbreak evolves, there is continual review of emerging evidence at all levels of government and in the health system, to understand the most appropriate measures to take to protect health care providers and patients. Our goal remains to provide you with the most up to
date and relevant information available to us at the time. I want to remind you as well that All Staff messages and other important information can be found on myHospital.