

## COVID-19 Preparedness Equipment Starting to Arrive!



Our BioFire Analyzer for in-Hospital COVID-19 testing arrived this week. Staff training will take place. This machine is new to the Health Centre and new to Canada. While it is FDA approved we expect Health Canada to approve it shortly. Our analyzer provides medical teams with testing results in under an hour. Thank you to Goodfellows Masonic Lodge and the Waubuno Shrine Club for the \$50,000 gift to purchase.

**Kindness and Caring All Around Us**

“The Dalglish family makes this gift in honour of those working at the West Parry Sound Health Centre. We wish them safety and strength in the coming weeks and gratefully acknowledge their dedication and hard work.”

*This message from a long-time cottaging family accompanied a gift of \$32,000 to buy 4 Bi-PAP Breathing Assist Devices. The sentiment is a constant one from many of our seasonal community.*

*The Hall and Schneider Families were among the first to call us, together purchasing our 4 Advanced Vital Signs Machines for our temporary ICU.*

“The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront once again how very important our health care system is to our community. The WPSHC is always there for us in times of need and I very much appreciate all they do.”

*Donna Besman a long-time local supporter of our Health Centre medical teams. As we receive financial support for our COVID-19 Response Plan, we’ve heard similar sentiments to Donna’s over and over in the last few days.*

**So much good will ... so many thank yous for your support!**

## **Emergency Department Changes During our COVID-19 Response Planning:**

After successfully testing the COVID-19 Response Plan, our Emergency Department now triages as follows:

- All patients seeking care in the Emergency Department will be directed to stop at the tent for pre-triage assessment.
- Patients who present with fever or respiratory symptoms will be directed into one stream. All other patients will move along a separate care path.
- Patients in the two streams will be triaged and provided with care in separate locations: ED and Ambulatory Care.
- Though in some ways similar to our summer-surge Non-urgent Care Clinic, we are NOT operating on that basis. We must rely on the public to ONLY VISIT our ED when in need of urgent care.
- Yellow footprints installed on the lobby floor will help to guide patients.
- To download a printable PDF of this plan, [click here](#). If there are necessary further changes, they will be shared.

## **To Mask or Not to Mask, that is No Longer the Question.**

We can continue to flatten the curve but the public remains the first line of defense. Please:

- if arriving from outside the community, quarantine for 14 days
- continue to stay home as much as possible
- practise physical distancing of at least 6 feet when in public
- regularly wash your hands or use alcohol-based sanitizers,
- don't touch your face
- cover your cough or sneeze, and
- send only 1 family member to our stores for essentials.

Added now is wearing a 'home-made' mask while in stores. This does not replace physical distancing it enhances the safety physical distancing provides.

Organized by our Health Centre Auxiliary, sewers throughout Parry Sound area are creating masks for broader public use. The mask distribution plan is being finalized. All masks are being cleaned at the Health Centre, then will be paper-bagged (off site) two per bag along with some instruction. The bags will then move north, south, and east. All as long as supplies last. As it stands today:

- Masks in Production.
- Distribution System in the works.
- Details on the 'supply chain' to follow when confirmed.

### **Today, is the 15th Anniversary of Opening the West Parry Sound Health Centre!**

When the doors opened April 8th, 2005 who could have imagined this anniversary. It's a shared celebration, albeit at a distance, between our Health Care Workers and our Donors. Our medical teams are truly extraordinary, attracted in part by our fabulous facility situated in a wonderful geography. Our Donors are equally extraordinary, wanting to age in place in Canada's rugged grandness. Because of the support flowing in, the Foundation has put a blanket order in on all devices our team required in their COVID-19 Response Preparedness as well as any additional items required. Your support is the best anniversary present ever... thank you.

**Everyone has a social responsibility to follow Public Health recommendations.**