



A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY FROM LUCY BONANNO, NORFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL PRESIDENT & CEO

Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 - There are currently over 700 people with COVID-19 receiving treatment in the ICU across Ontario, but the modeling suggests that the number will reach 800 by this week.

With the situation in the greater Toronto area worsening, hospitals in the West and East Regions, including the Norfolk General Hospital, have been directed by Ontario Health West to accept patient transfers from the GTA.

To prepare for this, we have begun creating capacity through rapid reductions of surgeries and procedures to free up space and health human resources. We anticipate a continued flow of chronic care patients in the coming weeks.

As I stated last week, the patients we are seeing are younger, and there is an increase in transmissions of variants of concern in our region. As of today, we are approaching 300 active cases of COVID-19 in Haldimand-Norfolk.

There is a directive that allows hospitals to transfer a person to another hospital without consent. Hospitals have protocols in place to determine when this will occur. If needed, patients at Norfolk General will be transferred to another hospital that can meet their care needs.

I cannot stress this enough, we need everyone to remain vigilant against the spread of the virus. Please stay at home as much as possible, wear a mask when you must go out, avoid close contact with anyone you don't live with, and wash your hands frequently.

This is critical to preserve hospital capacity to meet the healthcare needs, both COVID and non-COVID, of our community. We will continue to work alongside all of our partners to protect our communities and vaccinate eligible groups as quickly as possible.

Together, we will get through this.

Lucy Bonanno
President & CEO
Norfolk General Hospital