



News and Updates from The Mississippi River Health Alliance

Almonte General Hospital • Fairview Manor
Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital
Lanark County Paramedic Service

It Takes A Team

Sometimes it's hard to remember life before COVID-19. For the past three months, our focus has been on keeping our patients, residents and community safe. Everyone worked together to ensure that we were prepared - with new screening measures, enhanced personal protective equipment, limited visitors, changes in resident activities, and even saying farewell to our volunteers for a short time to keep them safe.

It takes a team - and the value of the Mississippi River Health Alliance has never been more clear.

"I am so proud of our teams - and how we are all working together to keep everyone safe," notes Mary Wilson Trider, President and CEO.

"Everyone has risen to the challenge with creativity and flexibility, focusing on doing the best we can for our patients, residents and one another. And we have all been supported by our incredible local communities."

While the pandemic is not over yet, we are starting to resume some non-urgent surgeries, diagnostic tests, and ambulatory care services that were postponed in March. Priority will be given to patients with the most pressing needs and patients will be called to rebook their appointments.

This resumption of services will be very gradual, over weeks and possibly months. We are collaborating with other hospitals in the region to meet the strict requirements. For example, we need to have enough personal protective equipment (masks, gowns) and we need to ensure there is room in the hospitals should COVID-19 cases increase.

A few things have changed at the hospitals. Everyone is now screened at the door. All staff and physicians are wearing masks. We have also increased the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the hospitals. We want our patients to feel safe – and we have taken every precaution to ensure that.

We understand that the pandemic has caused anxiety and stress for patients whose care has been delayed. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to seeing more patients soon.



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Getting Tested

It was collaboration at its best when physicians and staff at Almonte General Hospital and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital came together to operate the COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Almonte. The Lanark County Paramedic Service and the Health Unit also provided support.

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19, is concerned about exposure, or may be at risk for exposure, can make an appointment to be tested. Please call 613-325-1208.

Thank you to the health care teams, led by Dr. Steve Walker, Dr. Karen Turcotte, and Integrated Manager Jennifer Lindsay. The Centre is a wonderful example of the two hospitals working side-by-side as part of the Mississippi River Health Alliance.

For more details about the Assessment Centre, visit www.agh-fvm.com/assessmentcentre.

Refining Our Plan



Planning continues on CPDMH's new Emergency Department. Just before Christmas, Stage 3.1 block schematic reports were submitted to the Ministry of Health. The Ministry responded with a series of questions and the planning team is now working on those answers. The project is in phase three of the five-phase planning process.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided an unexpected opportunity to further review and refine the planning for the new department. Over the past three months, much has been learned about what is needed in the new Emergency Department to ensure the hospital is prepared for these types of situations in the future. This learning will be applied to the new design. Everyone is working hard to keep moving forward despite the challenges of COVID-19.

Changing of the Guard



Farewell and congratulations to Lanark County Paramedic Service Chief Ed McPherson who retired at the end of February. He leaves a legacy that includes a strong commitment to high quality care for patients in Lanark County, to progressive enhancement of clinical skills within the Service, and to the welfare and well-being of paramedics.

Congratulations to Travis Mellema who was appointed Chief in March. "Chief Mellema is a true leader and will move the paramedic service forward to new heights," noted Chief McPherson.

Welcoming Visitors

Visits from family and caregivers contribute greatly to a patient or resident's quality of life and well-being. We are pleased to welcome more visitors to the hospitals and Fairview Manor - with specific guidelines related to screening, masks and physical distancing. Everyone's safety is our #1 priority.

For full details, please visit the hospitals websites at www.agh-fvm.com and www.cpdmh.ca.



We also look forward to seeing our volunteers again. It's just not the same without you!

What's New



New Faces

Over the past few months, we have welcomed several new family physicians and specialists to our teams in both Almonte and Carleton Place:

- **Dr. Amy Toderian**, Family Physician, Ottawa Valley Family Health Team and AGH
- **Dr. Kyle Walker**, Rheumatologist, AGH & CPDMH
- **Dr. Anthony Caragianis**, Family Physician Carleton Place and CPDMH
- **Dr. Sheryens Shah**, Neurologist, CPDMH
- **Dr. Anna Ramanova**, Internal Medicine, AGH

Your Results Are In

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital is pleased to offer a new patient portal. It is a secure, web-based platform that allows patients to view test results, read select laboratory and medical reports, and view upcoming appointments using their home computer, tablet or phone.

In the future, patients may also be able to participate in virtual consults and appointments.



Patients coming to CPDMH will be asked if they would like to sign up for this free, online service.



Last year, there were **543,740 pounds of laundry** processed for AGH, CPDMH and Fairview Manor.

In case you are wondering, that's the equivalent of **472 male great white sharks!**

Sharing Expertise



We continue to look for opportunities for shared roles within the two hospitals. Working in both places provides an opportunity to share knowledge and best practices. Here are two recent examples:

- **Jennifer Lindsay** has an expanded role as Integrated Manager, Operating Room, CSR, and Ambulatory Care for both hospitals. This role will enable greater sharing of best practices and mutual support between the two hospitals.
- **Patti Morton** was appointed Integrated Director of Allied Health Services on June 1st. Patti has worked at AGH for over 26 years and will now be responsible for Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Dietitian services at both hospitals, as well as the Day Hospital and Volunteer Services in Almonte.

The Next Generation



Kudos to **Jordan Ricketts** who is the recipient of this year's \$1,000 Student Bursary.

Each year, the Fairview Manor Auxiliary and the Almonte General Hospital volunteer team award a deserving

Student Volunteer with a Bursary. Jordan has volunteered at AGH and Fairview Manor for the past four years. She completed more than 120 hours of service. Jordan has been accepted to Carleton University.

We Are Grateful!

Over the past few weeks, our local communities have stepped up with donations of personal protective equipment (PPE), food, and other offers of support for front-line workers .

We are all in this together.
Neighbours helping neighbours.
Thank you!



News from Our Foundations



WIN2020 Hospital Lottery was a tremendous success and sold out in just 33 days. Thank you to Bean Cars and everyone who purchased tickets in support of our hospitals. Congratulations to the winner of the 2020 Convertible Camaro - Mrs. Audrey Kealey of Carleton Place!

#GetOutAndRun Fundraiser



Our friends at Heritage Fitness Centre hosted a virtual run in support of our hospitals on May 30th. Heritage Fitness donated \$2 for every person who joined the 5 or 10K runs and posted a picture on social media with the hashtag #GetOutAndRun. More than \$1,000 was raised, with funds coming from event participants, corporate partners and Heritage Fitness.

Thank you!

The Mississippi River Health Alliance (MRHA) formalizes the commitment of the two hospitals to work together. The goal is to improve each patient and resident's overall health care experience through a strong, coordinated system of care. Each hospital remains a separate corporation with its own Board of Directors, Foundation and Volunteers. Funds raised in each community stay in each community.

If you have questions about the **Mississippi River Health Alliance**, please contact Mary Wilson Trider, President & CEO

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If you wish to connect regarding a compliment or concern, please visit our websites at: www.agh-fvm.com • www.cpdmh.ca

