

DEPARTMENT COVID-19 UPDATE #8 – April 9, 2020

On behalf of Nick Kates, Chair, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences -

Just a brief update today on a few recent developments, primarily our upcoming (Virtual) Department Meeting next week and Resident Redeployment.

Department Meeting – Wednesday April 15th

We will be holding a virtual Department Meeting next **Wednesday, April 15th** from **08.00 – 09.00** to help to keep us connected and to provide the most up-to-date information we can about what is going on. The formal invitation will follow but for now can you save the day and time. This meeting will be recorded and circulated in case you are unable to attend.

Our website

We are undertaking a major redesign of the CoVID-19 section of our website, to keep it relevant and easy to use. New materials will continue to be posted during this period, under existing headings, including the guidelines for supervisors circulated yesterday.

Redeployment of Residents - Update

Hamilton Program:

At this time, only one psychiatry resident has been redeployed to work in General Internal Medicine starting on April 13th. They will work with GIM for 4 weeks, and will then return to Psychiatry. Should the number of CoVID patients remain low through this weekend, the date of April 13th could be deferred. Similarly, if redeployed residents are not required for all four weeks, they may return to their home program earlier.

A second set of residents will be identified as "on reserve" to step in to GIM on shorter notice should redeployed residents require self-isolation. We don't yet know the number of psychiatry residents who may be included in that reserve list, but the first reserve list will probably be identified in the next week or so.

I want to commend our residents for the way they have stepped up to fill in the spots on **the resident PES call schedule** caused by the current redeployment. A resident back-up schedule remains intact at this time, should a scheduled resident become unwell or require self-isolation within 24 hours of their shift, and the resident call schedule will continue to be monitored over time as further movement of residents to GIM occurs. Thank you to all faculty on call who are providing excellent supervision and support of our residents in the work in PES, and also to **JoAnn Corey** for her tireless efforts on behalf of our residents.

Waterloo Regional Campus:

The need for redeployment of our WRC residents outside of psychiatry continues to be monitored by the hospital system and PGME. At this time no WRC psychiatry resident has been asked to redeploy outside of psychiatry. It is estimated that the earliest this might occur would be Monday, April 20th.

Royal College Exams

We learnt this afternoon that the Royal College will be cancelling the oral exams for this year. They will organize a written exam for all final year residents in September, following which successful candidates will be fully certified.

The CPSO will be providing every graduate of a residency program this summer with a provisional license, which will enable them to practice and teach – and take up faculty appointments – from the end of their residency until they have passed the exam.

Hospital Updates

SJHH The relocation of patients from the Charlton site to West 5th went very smoothly. All have been accommodated at West 5th without anyone needing to share a room, although this may change if the number of admissions from PES – which has been very low over the last 3 weeks – begins to increase. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in completing such a massive undertaking so smoothly and quickly. And West 5th still remains CoVID Free.

Homewood have had to temporarily close their Addictions Unit for 2 weeks for a “deep clean” following an outbreak. Almost all patients have been discharged to community care.

PPE – Universal Masking

Both SJH and HHS have just received additional Personal Protective Equipment, which will enable “Universal Masking” to occur for all staff and physicians working in clinical areas, beginning this weekend. This is really good news.

Wellness Support drop-in meetings

These are open to anyone who wishes to join them, and take place on Tuesdays at 7.45. Connection details for each meeting will be circulated to all of you the day before. Everyone who attended the first meeting earlier this week found it to be very helpful.

Support for Indigenous Communities

We continue to work closely with our Indigenous partners at Six Nations, Mississauga of the Credit and DAHC. Over the coming weeks **Ashley Johnson** will be spending increasing amounts of clinical time working with these three communities.

In the Media

Ryan Van Lieshout was interviewed by the Spectator for an article on post-partum peer support during the pandemic - [article](#)

And **Karen Rowa** was interviewed by the Toronto Star for a piece on hoarding - [article](#)

Department Dinner & Celebration

Our Annual summer dinner is a time to congratulate our graduating learners, celebrate our award winners and their accomplishments, and say farewell to faculty, staff or learners who may be leaving us. Although we won't be able to gather in person, we will be arranging a virtual get together on the same evening – **Thursday June 11th**. We are looking at how we can use virtual technologies to make this a very special evening, and further details will follow closer to the date.

Congratulations

To **Natasha Snelgrove** who, in the midst of all that is going on successfully defended her Master's thesis on “Communications development in psychiatry trainees”.

And to finish.....

You may have seen this recent poem, “And the People Stayed Home” by Kitty O’Meara, which has also been read at the end of virtual meetings to provide a moment for reflection.

And the people stayed home.

And they read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.

And they listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.

Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Wishing you and your families a safe and restful long weekend.

Nick