

DEPARTMENT COVID-19 UPDATE #10 – April 18, 2020

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

The last week has seen encouraging, if still early, signs that we may be starting to flatten and shift the CoVID curve locally and provincially. And consistent with this, we were pleased to learn that in light of the lower than expected number of cases arriving at our hospitals, the proposed redeployment of residents has been delayed for another week, to April 27th. at the earliest.

Last week also saw our second Virtual (and well-attended) Department Meeting, which included the most recent information on how the department and our hospital partners are dealing with the current CoVID-19 situation. Here is the recording of the meeting, which starts about 9 minutes into the

recording. <https://zoom.us/rec/share/w8spdrvx9UNJcKOVsEFTAlp5O6G9X6a8gXAdrPMMmBz5EgfAFfR-gveU5NxEwhuy> (Access Password: g8.M&A5%)

Question and Answer Department Town Hall on Wednesday April 22nd

We did cover a lot of ground during the Department meeting, but this meant there was no time for questions, something that a number of you mentioned after the meeting. To remedy this, we want to arrange a **Virtual Town Hall** this coming **Wednesday April 22nd. from 08.00 – 09.00** to give you the opportunity to ask those of us who are leading our academic programs, our wellness initiatives, our clinical services or the Department about any aspect of what is going on, what our immediate and future plans are, and to put forward your ideas about things we could or should be doing. The link to the meeting will be sent on Monday, but for now can you save the date.

If you have any questions you would like answered, can you either send them to me directly in advance at nkates@mcmaster.ca, or raise them during the course of the meeting using the Zoom “chat” command or by “raising your hand” electronically. This will also allow to ask your question anonymously, if you so wish.

In the Media

The Globe and Mail have just published online an excellent article by **Margaret McKinnon, Ruth Lanius** and **Rakesh Jetley** on the effects of moral injury for health care workers battling CoVID <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-amid-this-mortal-crisis-health-workers-are-also-facing-moral-wounds/>

St. Joe’s Wellness Initiative

The Employee Wellness Team at SJHH is committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all staff and physicians affected by COVID. They offer low-barrier, rapid access to a mental health clinician from the Mental Health and Addictions Program at SJHH. Access involves connection, support, and help accessing other resources if needed. This service will soon be made available to staff and physicians at HHS as well. Staff from SJHH can access this service by completing a brief form found on the Employee Wellness Page on MyStJoe’s. Staff from HHS will be able to access this service through a low barrier self-referral option via Connect, which will be available in the next week or so. Further details will follow.

Members of our Department assisting the Federal Government

A number of members of our Department (Margaret McKinnon, Ruth Lanius, Andrew Nicholson, Brenda Key, Karen Rowa, Randi McCabe, Peter Bieling, Sherain Harricharan, Krysta Andrews, and Bethany Easterbrook) are working with the *Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Training* to develop an excellent collection of web-based resources <https://www.cipsrt-icrtsp.ca/covid-19/> to assist healthcare workers and public safety personnel in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. This work has been mandated by the federal government under the auspices of Public Safety Canada <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/index-en.aspx>

Upcoming Meeting for Physicians re CoVID-19 and billings

On **Tuesday April 28th** at **17.00**, the AFP and Department will be jointly organising a Town Hall for all our psychiatrists to discuss the financial implications of the CoVID pandemic, answer any questions you might have, and hear your ideas about what steps we could take to ease some of the financial consequences. More details will follow.

And to finish.....

Quarantine as seen through great works of Art <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwZrUxCDLzk>

Stay well, look after each other and bring all your questions to the Town Hall this Wednesday.

Nick