



Report of the President & CEO, CNE and COS to the Board of Directors

Date: September 2023

Strategic Direction - Strengthen the processes that drive a culture of patient safety and quality care

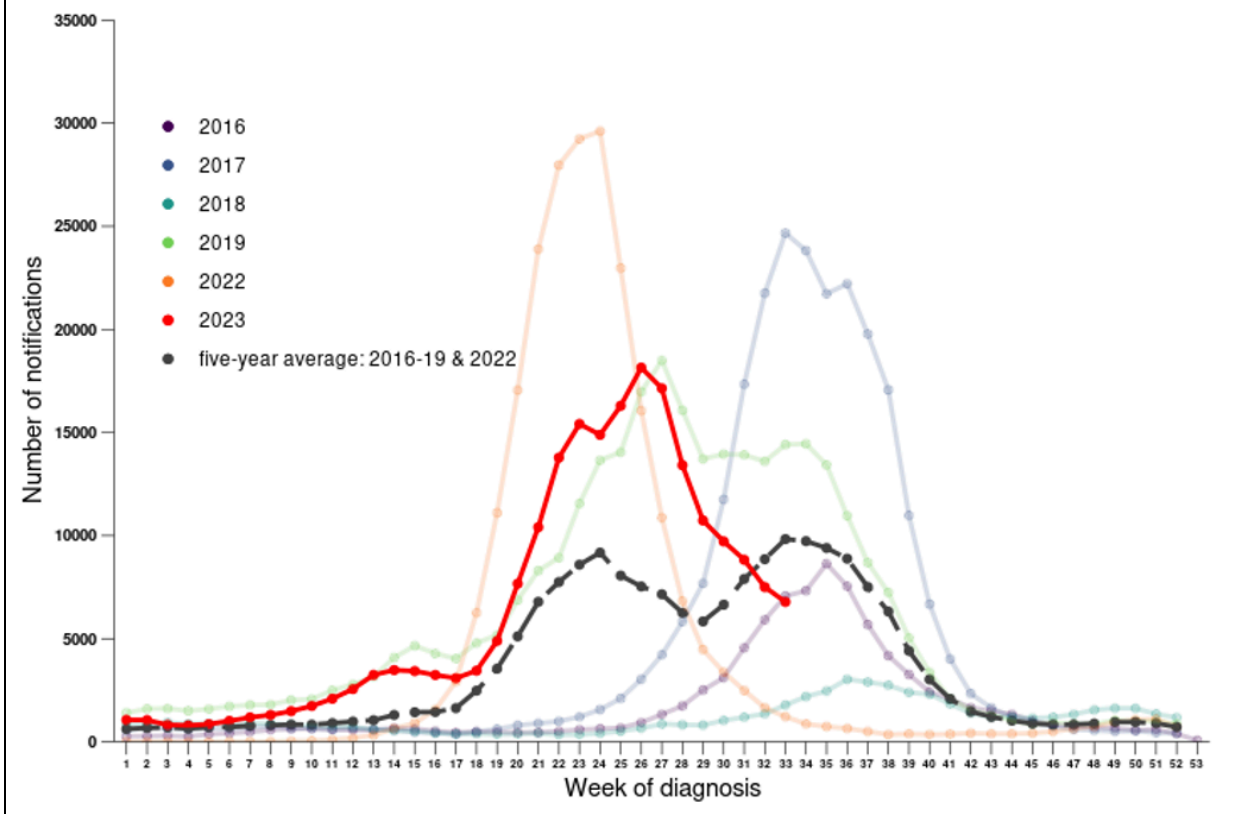
Updates on Influenza, COVID and RSV

As typical this time of year we look to Australia to see how their influenza season fared and get an idea of what we could be facing. If you recall last year Australia had an earlier than normal start to the influenza season and it resulted in a very quick increase in severity with a record number of positive cases and hospitalizations. This trend of an early season and sudden increase was followed in Ontario and Canada.

This is what Australia looks like this year and as compared to previous years.



Figure 3: Notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza, Australia, 1 January 2016 to 20 August 2023, by year and week of diagnosis*



Source: NNDSS

*NNDSS notification data provided for the current and most recent weeks may be incomplete. All data are preliminary and subject to change as updates are received, with most recent weeks considered particularly subject to revisions. The years 2020 and 2021 are excluded when comparing the current season to historical periods when influenza virus has circulated without public health restrictions. Please refer to Data considerations for interpretation of the five-year average.

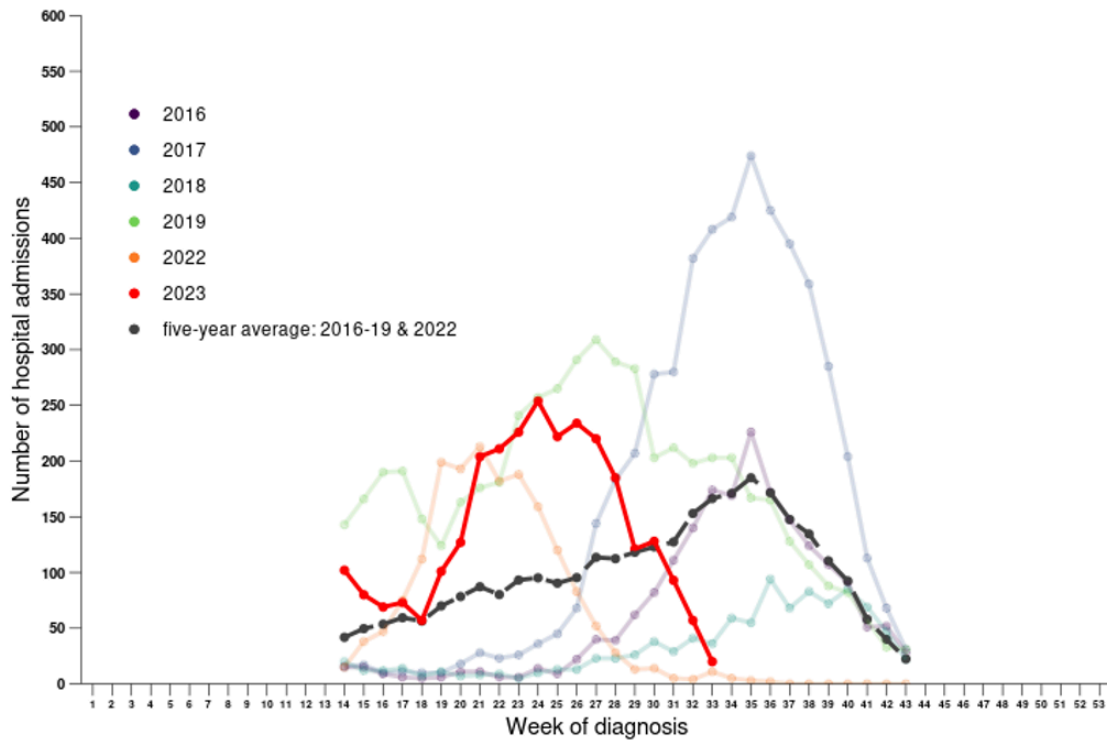
Source - <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/australian-influenza-surveillance-reports-2023>

You can see from the red line that the season started a couple weeks later than last year and very similar to 2019 experience. However, a slightly quicker drop off then 2019. About 50-60% of the number of cases at its peak then 2022.

However the hospitalizations show a slightly worse situation then even 2022. Again, starts later BUT seems more sustained then even 2022.



Figure 6: Number of influenza hospitalisations at sentinel hospitals, from April to October, 2016 to 2023 by year and week of diagnosis*



Source: FluCAN

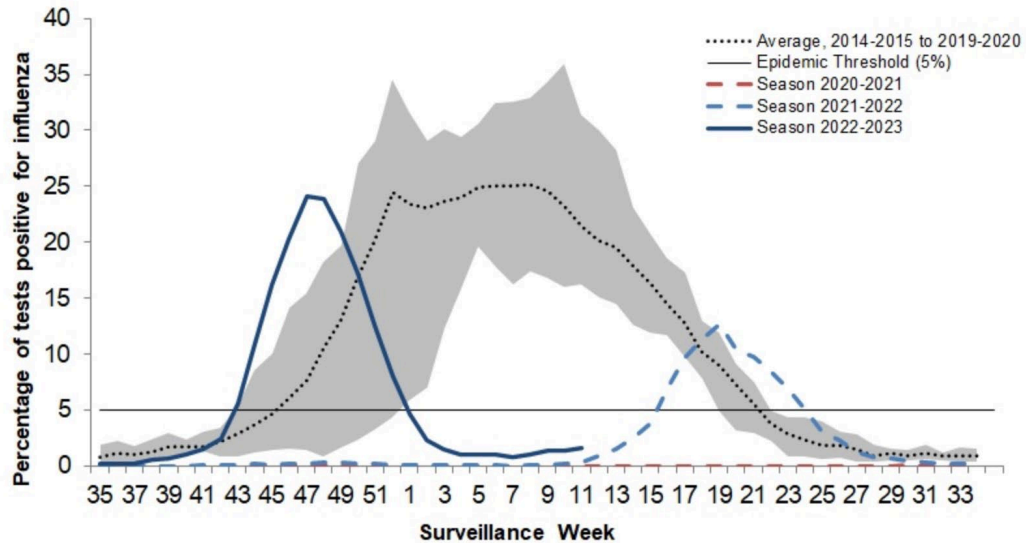
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Now to give it some perspective below is the influenza map for Canada for 2022-2023. It shows an earlier start to the season being around October 9, 2022. A dramatic increase BUT also a dramatic decrease. Very similar to Australia 2022-2023 influenza season.

As a result, if we are to look to Australia it will be a couple week later start. More like October 23, 2023. A quick rise in cases. Not as high as 2022 BUT a more gradual decrease and possibly more hospitalizations than last year – more acute.



Figure 3 - Percentage of tests positive in Canada compared to previous seasons, week 2022-35 to 2023-11



COVID

There has been a lot of recent attention paid to COVID and getting prepared for the fall and winter months as more people head indoors. Up until recently the XBB variant of interest was the one that was taking hold across the world and Canada. <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/testing-variants.html#vocChart>

However, a new variant of interest is rising in concern and most recently was even identified in Michigan. The BA.2.86 variant of interest. <https://www.who.int/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants>

CDC @CDCgov

CDC is tracking a new lineage of the virus that causes COVID-19. This lineage is named BA.2.86, and has been detected in the United States, Denmark and Israel. CDC is gathering more information and will share more about this lineage as we learn it.

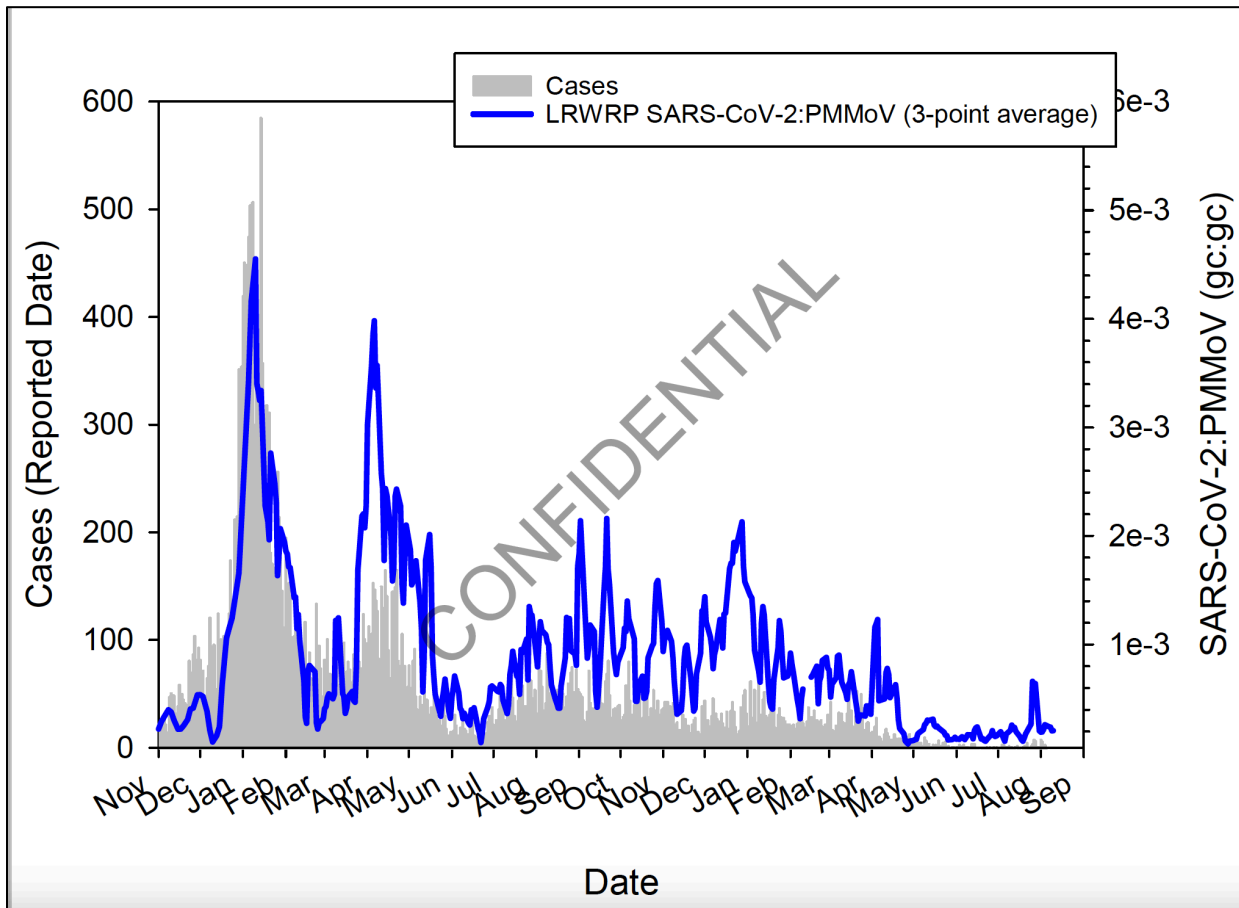
8:05 PM · Aug 17, 2023 · 1.1M Views

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s vaccine advisory panel met in June and decided vaccines for release sometime in September will be a monovalent vaccine targeting the Omicron subvariant. We are hearing it will be available for healthcare staff in October and general population early November.

A good summary of BA.2.86 can be found at <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02656-9>



Locally a good indicator of what is to come is wastewater testing. So far this summer has been quiet. We will keep an eye on this issue. Generally it gives a week or so heads up on what to expect to see coming into hospital.



RSV

Through the Respiratory Syncytial Virus Prophylaxis for High-Risk Infants Program, the Ministry of Health covers the full cost of the drug palivizumab used to prevent a serious lower respiratory tract infection caused by the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in infants who are less than 2 years of age at the start of the RSV season and who are at high risk for RSV disease.

The drug is only provided during the active season to infants who meet the ministry's eligibility criteria for funding. The active season is generally from November to April, with variations in various regions of Ontario.

Health Canada has granted approval for GSK's Arexvy vaccine to prevent respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)-related lower respiratory tract disease (LRTD) in people aged 60 years and above.



A recombinant, AS01E-adjuvanted RSV vaccine, Arexvy is the first to obtain approval for use in older adults in the country. The latest development was based on the findings from a Phase III clinical trial programme in which Arexvy demonstrated 82.6% efficacy in preventing LRTD in older subjects. The vaccine also demonstrated an efficacy of 94.6% in individuals with underlying medical issues.

Specific dates of arrival of both the Paediatric monoclonal antibody treatment and Adult Arexvy vaccine are to be determined.

Strategic Direction – Uphold the principles of accountability and transparency

Surgery Waitlist Update

Pre COVID-19 as of March 19th, 2020 there were 5,346 patients waiting for surgery. As of Aug 21, 2023, there are 3,223 patients waiting for surgery. A reduction of 40%.

More recently, WRH was directed by Ontario Health to develop a strategy to reduce the number of long waiter patients. A “long waiter” is defined as patients who are waiting greater than their priority timeline. As of Aug 21, 2023, there has been an 11% reduction in long waiters compared to March 25, 2023.

	Total Patients Waiting	Patients Waiting Over Target	% Waiting Over Target
March 25, 2023	4,623	2,337	51%
Aug 21, 2023	3,223	1,301	40%
Improvement	1,400	1,036	11%

Orthopedic surgery had the highest volume of patients waiting for surgery and the highest volume of long waiters, they have been able to reduce their long waiters by 269 patients. Similarly, Gynecological surgery was able to reduce their long waiters by 177 patients and Oral and Maxillofacial and Dentistry has been able to reduce their long waiters by 196 patients. These surgeries include scheduled hip replacements, knee replacements, hysterectomies and pediatric dental procedures.



Strategic Direction - Maintain a responsive and sustainable corporate financial strategy

Accreditation 2023 Survey – Update

- Accreditation Canada surveyors will be coming to WRH for the onsite survey November 26 - December 1, 2023.

PHASES		Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	
Phase 1 Assessment Nov. - Mar.	Create Teams	✓			✓														
	Complete Surveys				✓														
	Conduct Mock Tracers						✓												
	Assess ROPs						✓												
	Assess Standards						✓												
Phase 2 Preparation Apr. - Nov.	Create Action Plans									✓									
	Conduct Mock Tracers									✓ (85+ audits)					Not started				
	Complete Action Plans									In progress									
	Prepare Our Evidence									In progress									
	Prepare Education Plan									✓ (95%)									
	Educate Staff														In progress				
	Prepare for On-site														In progress				
Phase 3 On-site Survey Nov. 26 - Dec 1	On-site Survey - be assessed by Accreditation Canada surveyors																		

➤ **PHASE 1 (Assessment) – 100% Complete**

➤ **PHASE 2 (Preparation) – In Progress**

- In Phase 2, teams created action plans to address gaps/areas for improvement found in self-assessments and the staff (Worklife Pulse & Safety Culture) and Governance surveys. Board members completed their Action Plans for Governance Standards & Governance survey results in April.
- Teams are currently completing their action plan tasks and compiling evidence to be uploaded to Accreditation Canada. Some teams have already completed this work.
- The draft on-site schedule has been shared with the Executive Committee for review and approval. Once finalized, team leads will be selected and invitations will be sent out.
- Currently, Corporate Education about accreditation, the standards and how we meet them is being rollout out and discussed weekly at the frontline level across WRH. This will continue weekly until the week of our on-site survey in order to ensure the good work we do is shared with frontline staff level too.



▪ **Next Steps:**

- Board members should be completing the Actions Plan tasks they created.
- Standard & ROP teams should complete their Action Plans by end of September at latest, including compiling of all evidence to upload to Accreditation Canada.
- A third wave of mock tracers (audits on our most important or concerning standard-related processes) will occur in September.

❖ **Want to know more?** Go to your Board Accreditation folder online or contact Sherri Franz (519-991-1856).

Strategic Direction - Create a dynamic workplace culture that establishes WRH as an employer of choice

WRH Workplace Wellness Program – It’s Summer Time!

The WRH Workplace Wellness Program continued to engage staff, professional staff, and their families and friends at events during the spring and summer months.

The program offers a wide variety of events based on the five dimensions of wellness:

Physical – Emotional – Intellectual – Spiritual – Social.

From May to August, 2023 the program provided events for 368 staff/family members:

- 26 WRH Staff Only Events
- 49 Community Events
- 6 Volunteer Opportunities
- 3 Book club Recommendations

Highlights of events during these months included:

- Southern cooking classes, personal pizza making and tour of Italy, making preserves and jam.
- Intro to pickleball, sunset drumming circle, paddle boarding and kayaking, intro to belly dancing, par 3 golf outing, intro to lawn bowling.
- Field flower arranging, Essex Fun Fest, Peche Island tour, music in the courtyard, painting event.



Coming Soon!

Fall events have already been planned including: restorative yoga, apiary and honey tasting tour, festival of hawks tour, family forest outing, harvest and Halloween cupcake decorating workshop, food truck festival at both campuses.

The WRH Wellness Challenge will also be taking place during October and November. The challenge encourages participants to keep active and earn points. Those who participate will be entered into draws to win some incredible WRH prizes.

Staff Feedback:

I have learned so much about our region and the outdoor facilities available to us. FLOWER FIELD ADVENTURE

Enjoyed learning a new skill in a beautiful atmosphere! MEDITATIVE AND INTUITIVE YOGA AND PAINTING WORKSHOP

I feel so very lucky to be gifted with this program. UNWIND ON THE WATER

I appreciate sharing and being able to invite a guest to these workplace events. INTRODUCTION TO PICKLEBALL

I have been trying to book a pickleball lesson for almost a year! It was amazing to have my workplace arrange it! INTRODUCTION TO PICKLEBALL

This was a fantastic event! I loved learning how to make pizza dough and listening to the tourism specialist. PERSONAL PIZZA DOUGH AND TOUR OF ITALY

I enjoy visiting local service providers and vendors! What a great community spirit! This event was world-class and so well organized for all levels of players. SUNSET DRUMMING SESSION





FOOD TRUCK

EVENT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

MET CAMPUS 1PM TO 4PM



In appreciation of your efforts, WRH Staff (employees, volunteers, professional staff and affiliates) are invited to stop by and enjoy a complimentary individually wrapped lunch.

(While supplies last)

If not working you are free to stop by and pick up a meal showing your badge.



Beverages provided by Transition to Betterness

SPONSORED BY
WRH WORKPLACE WELLNESS PROGRAM
JOIN US FOR MORE EVENTS!
CHECK OUT THE WORKPLACE WELLNESS CALENDAR
ON THE WRH INTRANET

Username: Wellness
Password: Healthy2022





FOOD TRUCK

EVENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4th

OUELLETTE CAMPUS 1PM TO 4PM



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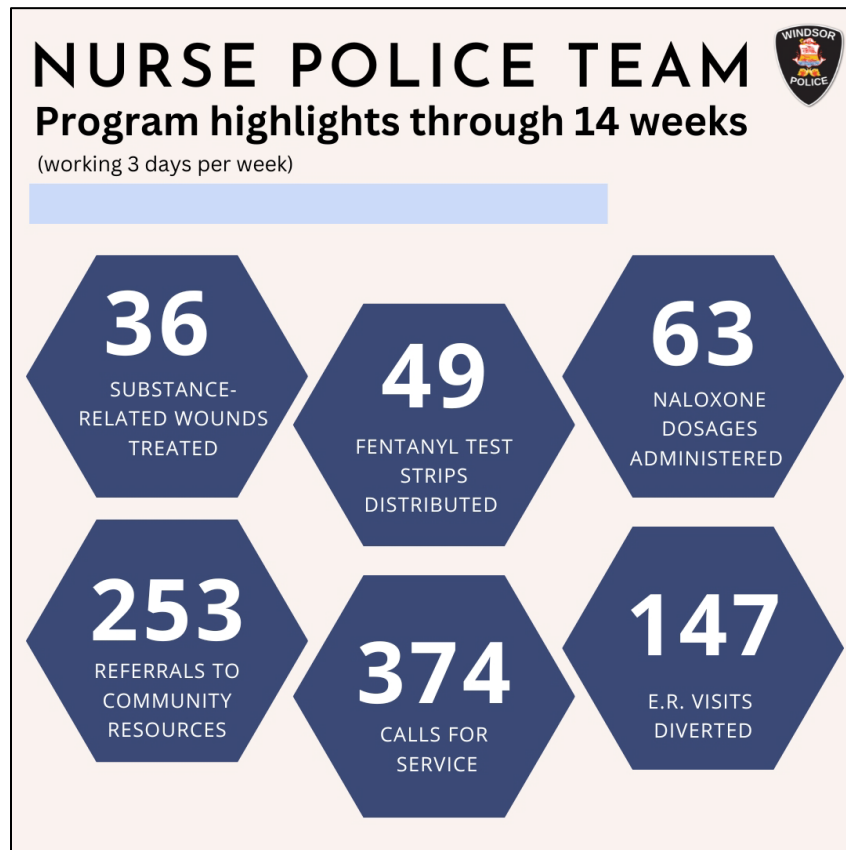
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Strategic Direction - Redefine our collaboration with external partners to build a better healthcare ecosystem

NPT Team Update



The Windsor Police Service and Windsor Regional Hospital are pleased to announce the six-month extension of the **Nurse Police Team (NPT) pilot program** aimed at supporting individuals struggling with substance use disorders and related challenges.

The program, launched in May 2023, pairs nursing professionals with frontline police officers to provide proactive, holistic, and non-judgmental care to individuals in need and connect them with the appropriate support services. The initiative aims to introduce more meaningful treatment and support options while steering people away from the criminal justice system and hospital emergency departments.

Over the first 14 weeks of the pilot program, the nurse-police teams handled 374 calls for service, referred 253 people to the appropriate community resources, and treated 36 substance-related wounds. The proactive care enabled some 147 patients to be diverted from our already overcrowded hospital emergency rooms.

<https://www.police.windsor.on.ca/newsroom/news-update/august/Pages/August-21-2023-Update-1.aspx>



Strategic Direction - Continue the pursuit of NEW state-of-the-art acute care facilities

Project Update

The summer weather may be starting to cool, but things are continuing to heat up in the PMO office. Preparations are now underway to build and strengthen the team and ensure required expertise is in place to ensure a smooth transition into the next planning stage. This includes further development of the facility's design and the start of the tendering process to select a final design and builder for the new hospital.

Following a competitive bidding process, Angus Connect, a division of HHAngus & Associates Ltd., was selected to develop and implement the Information Communication Automation and Technology (ICAT) strategy for the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital (NWEACH) Project. This multidisciplinary team of IT, healthcare and engineering professionals will support the project through the indicative design, tendering and construction stages. Members bring a wealth of experience to the project, having worked on the ICAT strategy for a number of new hospital projects, including the Michael Garron Hospital that opened earlier this year in Toronto, the Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington and the South Niagara Hospital project. Over the next several months, they will work with hospital leadership, User Groups, community members and patients to develop a vision and set of standards for the use of technology in the new state-of-the-art hospital.

As part of the process, they will examine opportunities for traditional and innovative uses of technology, including everything from nurse call, patient information, and entertainment systems to smart rooms and automated guided vehicles. Users will be guided to think outside of the box to imagine how technology can help ensure a seamless and comfortable journey for patients in the new hospital.

The tendering process is now underway to select an Operational Readiness consultant to ensure a smooth transition for staff and patients when the new hospital opens. The team is also currently evaluating bid submissions for a retail consultant, who will help us optimize the retail opportunities in the new hospital and ensure the right products and services are available and easily accessible. All open project-related procurement opportunities can be found online throughout the planning process at biddingo.com.

The recruitment process for internal leadership to support the project is also underway. Job postings for several key leadership positions are now online. Everyone is encouraged to check out the [hospital job board](#) for more details, and share the postings with qualified individuals who may be interested being part of this transformative project.

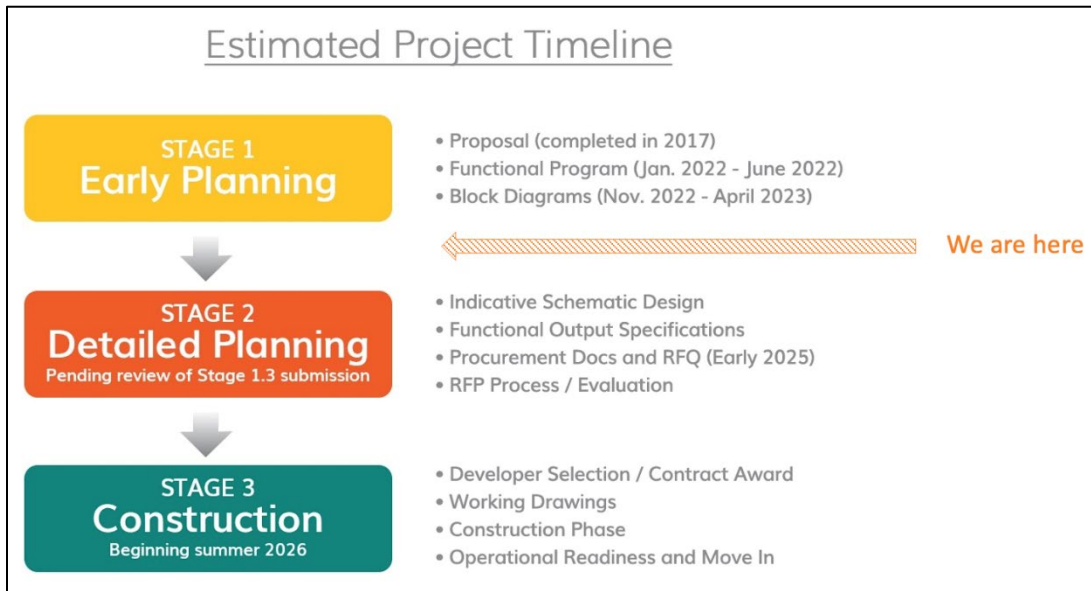
The Ouellette Campus

Following the Stage 1.3 Submission to the Ministry of Health for the NWEACH project, in April, the team's focus has shifted to planning the future of the Ouellette Campus. The downtown location, which will include an urgent care centre, pharmacy, laboratory, diagnostic imaging and some outpatient procedures, is a critical part



of future service delivery plans for the region. The goal of the planning team is to maximizing use of good infrastructure in the current facility, while providing safe and effective healthcare to the downtown core.

After meeting with relevant User Groups in early summer, the team at Parkin Architects is now drafting and refining options for the reuse of Ouellette. The Stage 1.3 submission is expected to be ready for submission to the Ministry of Health later this year. The submission will outline the future scope of services at the Ouellette Campus and support the Ministry in its ongoing review of the Stage 1.3 plans for the new hospital, by offering a complete picture as to how healthcare will be delivered in the region.



Special Visit from Ontario’s Infrastructure Minister

On a recent visit to the area, Ontario Infrastructure Minister Kinga Surma made a stop at WRH. She met with hospital and project leadership to discuss significant investments her government is making to improve hospital infrastructure for patients in Windsor-Essex, including the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital.

While here, she toured the Ouellette Campus with Windsor-Tecumseh MPP Andrew Dowie and Essex MPP Anthony Leardi and also made a stop at the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital site.

We look forward to continuing to work with all of our project partners in the coming months/years as we break ground and start construction of a new state-of-the-art hospital that will serve this reason for generations to come.

