



COMPASSION is our
PASSION

OUR VISION: OUTSTANDING CARE - NO EXCEPTIONS!

OUR MISSION: DELIVER AN OUTSTANDING PATIENT CARE EXPERIENCE BY A PASSIONATE COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Media Release

April 17, 2020

For Immediate Release

WRH FIELD HOSPITAL SET TO OPEN FOR COVID-19 POSITIVE LONG-TERM CARE AND RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

WINDSOR, ON. Windsor Regional Hospital (WRH) is set to open its field hospital at St. Clair College for COVID-19 patients Saturday, with initial placement of residents who have tested positive for the COVID virus at local long-term care (LTC) and retirement homes.

The goal is to provide a specialized setting where those residents being transferred from LTC and retirement homes can be provided with the best possible care. This will in turn reduce the pressures being experienced by local homes that have been impacted by COVID-19 outbreaks, and allow them to focus on the well-being of their other residents.

The first cohort of patients for the Sportsplex will come from Heron Terrace in east Windsor, involving residents there who tested positive for COVID-19. Essex-Windsor EMS, who tested the residents, will also arrange to safely transport them to the St. Clair College Sportsplex.

“This decision allows us to remove these LTC residents away from the outbreak to the Sportsplex facility where they can receive safe medical care by WRH staff, while at the same time protecting those that remain in the facility, including staff at the home,” said WRH President and CEO David Musyj.

“This plan will allow us to continue to provide our residents with the care that they need and deserve, and assist in our battle to stem the spread of COVID-19,” stated Amy Sworik, Administrator, Heron Terrace. “I cannot be more proud of our staff at Heron Terrace. Together with the Windsor Regional Hospital team we will be better able to protect both our residents and staff.”

As announced on April 2, WRH reached an agreement with St. Clair College to use the College’s SportsPlex – a stand-alone athletic facility on the main campus – as a field hospital for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. In barely over two weeks, we have transformed the Sportsplex into a 100-bed hospital facility.

“I have been involved in the preparation and operation of many field hospitals. I can inform you what the team has assembled here is more than that. It is an impressive clinical facility that along with our clinical and non-clinical teams will provide exceptional care for our most vulnerable population,” said Dr. Paul Bradford, Trauma Lead and Emergency Department physician at Windsor Regional Hospital, and Senior Area Medical Officer, SW Ontario Area Field Operations, Veteran Affairs Canada.

“I want to congratulate our incredible WRH team and partners for getting this facility operational in such a short timeframe – a remarkable achievement for our community,” Musyj said.

WRH will ramp up use of the Sportsplex facility by starting with Heron Terrace and then moving to other LTC homes where a COVID-19 outbreak has been identified. The Sportsplex will be staffed by WRH employees and professional staff the same way we would staff a typical WRH in-patient unit. The Sportsplex will be able to care for 100 patients.

Similar to a long term care facility visitors will not be permitted. However, we will be using iPad or Android devices to help residents stay in touch with their loved ones. This is similar to the program recently introduced at both campuses, as described here: <https://www.wrh.on.ca/newsroom?newsid=2506>.

“Our commitment is to providing the same outstanding care to individuals at the Sportsplex as they would receive at either the Met or Ouellette Campus,” Musyj said.

-30-

For further information contact:

Steve Erwin, Manager, Corporate Communications, Government and Community Relations
519-564-4902 (cell) / steve.erwin@wrh.on.ca

***PLEASE NOTE that media are invited for a brief tour of the facility (Geraedts Dr., Windsor) at 2 pm on Friday, April 17th. Please meet outside the front entrance to the main lobby. Following this media availability, media will NOT be permitted inside the Sportsplex for photographs and/or video, OR OUTSIDE the building on college property in order to respect the privacy of both patients and staff. We will do our best to provide images to media outlets where requested.