

Date: October 2020

Update Strategic Plan

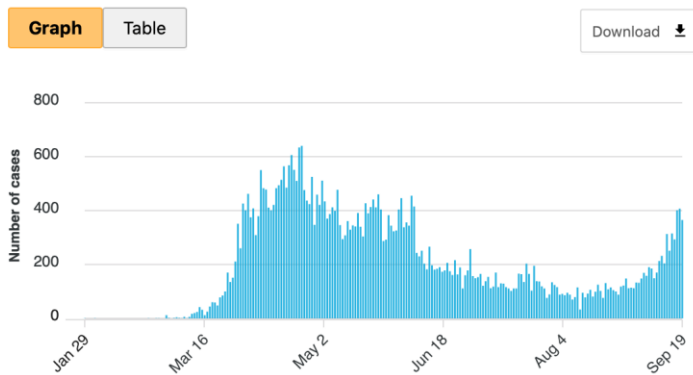
At the October Board meeting there will be a presentation on the draft 2021-2024 Strategic Plan to our Board of Directors. We will send out the report and video explaining the report after the Board meeting. As we have stated, a Strategic Plan serves as a fundamental guide to decision-making and offers a clear direction on how the hospital fulfills its Vision and Mission while living its Values. We were fortunate enough to get a substantial amount of the planning done prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay tuned for more details.

Status of Wave 2 or successive Waves

Last updated: Sep 20, 2020 at 10:26 a.m.

Daily new cases

This data is not cumulative – each bar/number shows how many new cases were reported on a single day.

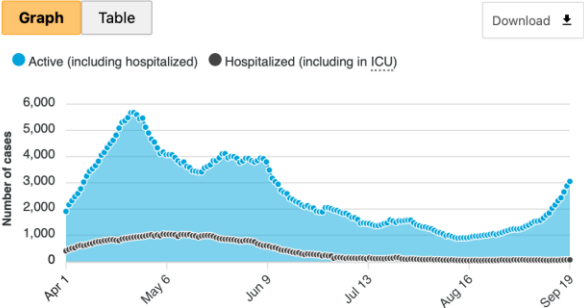


As we prepare for an increase of COVID-19 cases, the question is posed what impact will this have on Hospital services.

Even though we have seen a spike in COVID-19 positive cases, the number of hospitalizations has not increased – even though it is a “lagging indicator” – meaning it will follow a spike in cases by a couple weeks.

Comparing active and hospitalized cases

This data is not cumulative – each dot/number shows how many cases were active or hospitalized on a single day.

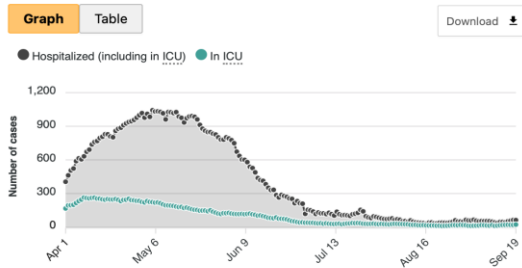


However, during the height of the Ontario COVID-19 cases in April some ~ 17% of the cases were hospitalized. As of September 20, this number of hospitalizations to positive COVID-19 cases was ~ 2%. As outlined in the attached article, it could be the result of the age of the current positive COVID-19 patients (~2/3 under 40 years of age; 1/3 in their 20’s even though they make up only 14% of Province’s population) and also the improved work that is happening with testing and contact tracing to stop the spread to more vulnerable populations. <https://apple.news/AkWo7nwVNRx67nq2LCU4TFw>. As stated in the attached article, it is too early to draw definitive conclusions.

This same trend applies to ICU COVID-19 patients.

Comparing hospitalized and in-ICU cases

This data is not cumulative – each dot/number shows how many cases were hospitalized or in the ICU on a single day.



Since my report is written a week before the Board meeting – a week is like a lifetime in COVID-19 – see this link for up-to-date data to see if this trend continued. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data>

Fall Plan Ontario

As I am typing my report, the Province is announcing its “Fall Plan” for our healthcare system. I will be able to talk more about the Fall Plan at the actual Board meeting.

The first part of the plan was announced to promote influenza vaccinations. As healthcare workers this is the year we need to set the example for our community. In the past our vaccination rates usually land about 40%.

As stated by the Province and world leaders – getting the flu vaccine will help reduce the impact of a second wave. Having influenza cases and COVID-19 cases at the same time could be problematic for the healthcare system. We have to reduce the impact together.

Testing Testing Testing

Issues related to access to COVID-19 testing and getting timely results continue to impact our international jurisdictions.

The current “gold standard” is polymerase chain reaction (PCR). <https://www.healthing.ca/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus/nose-or-spit-the-kinds-of-covid-19-tests-and-what-we-can-count-on>



There are many other concepts in the queue that are being examined to increase access and also reduce turnaround times for results.

The BC model of swishing saline and gargling is a promising one for younger folks who probably would go once for a nasal swab and never again. However, it uses PCR for the actual testing. <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/gargle-test-for-covid-19-works-for-adults-as-well-as-children-researcher-says-1.5111012>

Also, in the United States the antigen method has been approved for use. It allows for generally swabbing an individual's mouth and receiving immediate results. Could eventually be done at home. However, as it stands the false negative and false positive rates are high.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-covid-19-testing-devices-1.5726686>

Ontario is pushing for antigen approval. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7346078/doug-ford-health-canada-rapid-covid-19-tests/>

An interesting concept is what is happening at Cornell.

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/wellness/video/cornell-university-exclusive-contained-covid-19-73163035>

The background is explained here.

<https://www.ithacajournal.com/story/news/local/2020/08/31/cornell-covid-19-testing-coronavirus-process-students/3442490001/>

Also, serological testing (anti body testing) is approved for non-diagnostic testing in Canada. It is meant to identify if you possibly had COVID-19 in the past and have some anti-bodies present. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/medical-devices/testing/serological.html>

