



Healthcare Community Asks for Continued Vigilance in Face of COVID-19

As Cases Rise Provincially, Stress on the Healthcare System is Apparent

The safety of Sarnia-Lambton residents is the top priority of Bluewater Health and Lambton Public Health, and we continue to closely monitor and respond to COVID-19 developments.

Provincially, as COVID-19 cases increase, the healthcare system is facing strain. Just down the 401 and 402, we are seeing outbreaks at Windsor and London hospitals. While Sarnia-Lambton has been successful so far at keeping our COVID-19 cases low, it is important to learn from those around us. What we do today will affect us tomorrow, and we need your continued help to ensure access to healthcare services for all.

The hospital team is working hard with our community partners to safely and appropriately discharge patients who no longer require hospital care to keep our census low, and in the second wave of COVID-19, we have not needed to cancel non-urgent surgeries and procedures.

However, we are not an island. The scenario we are seeing in neighbouring communities, where healthcare resources are stretched beyond capacity, can occur in Sarnia-Lambton. COVID-19 is real, and the greater the number of COVID-19 cases, the greater the likelihood people will require emergency and critical care.

We know many of you are tired of COVID-19 and the constant messaging – to wear a mask, to keep physically distant from those outside of your household, and to limit excursions to work, school and important needs like groceries. We know many are tired of cancelled events, and as we head towards the holidays and the New Year, many will miss celebrations with extended family and friends.

Our healthcare teams are tired too. We are asking that you help them, and our community, by understanding the severity of the situation and, no matter how many times you've heard it, that you do your part to keep COVID-19 transmission at bay.

It's the season to give – so let's please give the gift of understanding, compassion and kindness for our healthcare workers, each other, and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Haddad".

Dr. Mike Haddad
Chief of Staff
Bluewater Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lapaine".

Mike Lapaine
President & CEO
Bluewater Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sudit Ranade".

Dr. Sudit Ranade
Medical Officer of Health
Lambton Public Health