

Vaccine safety, effectiveness and local distribution the focus of OHT-N's next COVID-19 Virtual Forum on February 25

With the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines underway for priority populations in Northumberland as part of Phase 1 of the provincial distribution plan, Ontario Health Team of Northumberland (OHT-N) partners will host an interactive online session to answer the public's vaccine-related questions.

How do the COVID-19 vaccines work? Are the vaccines safe? How long will immunization last? How are vaccines being distributed? When is rollout to the general population expected and how will this be coordinated locally? The third OHT-N COVID-19 Virtual Forum will address these questions and more during a 60-minute online event on **Thursday, February 25, beginning at 7 p.m.**

Local panelists will open the forum with a brief overview of topics including how the vaccines work in the body to combat the virus, the status of local vaccine rollout along with rough timelines for expanded distribution, and the partnerships in place to ensure a coordinated approach to mass vaccination across Northumberland. A live question and answer opportunity will follow.

There are two options to join: directly via the Zoom platform or by phone. Participants joining via Zoom will be able to ask questions directly of the panelists as well as other OHT-N representatives, including both county hospitals, Northumberland Paramedics, community care agencies, long-term care providers and more. Those joining by phone are invited to submit their questions in advance.

"As vaccine supply continues to flow into Northumberland and distribution expands to the broader community, we hope that everyone who is eligible will roll-up their sleeves – in consultation with their health care provider – to help prevent further spread of COVID-19 in our community, and support the national movement to build widespread immunity," says Linda Davis, spokesperson for the OHT-N and President and CEO of Northumberland Hills Hospital. "We know that vaccination is the only foreseeable way to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic – it is a robust layer of PPE we can each do in building our collective defence against this virus. OHT-N partners are collaborating with the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit and stand ready to support the priority work of local vaccine rollout in any way needed. As part of this vital collaboration, we look forward to sharing information and answering questions during this upcoming Virtual Forum to help members of the public make informed decisions about getting the COVID-19 vaccine, once available."

Who: Moderated by Linda Davis, President and CEO, Northumberland Hills Hospital, this forum will include the following presenters:

- **Dr. Ian Gemmill**, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit
- **Karen Peters**, Pharmacist, Northumberland Family Health Team
- **Dr. Emma Smith**, Primary Care Physician

When: Thursday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m.

Where/How: Join the Virtual Forum in one of the following ways:

- **Connect directly via Zoom:** zoom.us/join
- **Dial-in by phone, toll-free:** 1-855-703-8985
- **Access code for either option: Meeting ID:** 984 5373 8346 **Passcode:** 599866

Joining by phone? Submit your questions in advance to info@ohtnorthumberland.ca or to 1-800-354-7050, ext. 2335. Joining via Zoom? Submit questions during the event using the 'chat' button.

For more information please visit: OHTNorthumberland.ca.



NHH medical team expanding with recruitment of six new physician specialists

Please join NHH in extending a warm Northumberland welcome to the following specialists recruited to our growing medical team:

- Dr. Sandra Demaries, Psychiatrist (shown right with NHH Chief of Staff, Dr. Mukesh Bhargava)
- Dr. Philippe Rizek, Neurologist
- Dr. Rishi Narine, Radiologist
- Dr. El-Zabet, Anesthesiology
- Dr. Katie O'Reilly, Pathologist
- Dr. Hetal Talati, Pathologist



Details on each will be found in the related media release on nhh.ca.

Worried about symptoms that could be due to COVID-19? Not sure if you should get medical advice? There's a primary care provider in the NHH COVID-19 Assessment Centre who can help



A local primary care provider (family physician or nurse practitioner) is available daily at the NHH COVID-19 Assessment Centre (CAC) to assess and treat symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19, in addition to collecting specimens for COVID-19 testing, thanks to a collaboration coordinated through the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland.

The NHH CAC's primary care provider option is specially designed to:

- improve access to care for symptomatic patients with rapid assessment,
- diagnose and treat symptoms that may or may not be related to COVID-19 (this includes but is not limited to COVID-19 testing); and
- provide care to those with symptoms that may or may not be due to COVID-19 in a safe, dedicated space outside of the hospital and local primary care providers' offices where other potentially vulnerable patients are receiving care.

The NHH CAC is open to serve you seven days/week, from 8AM to 4PM. Please call us to schedule an appointment: 905-377-7783. We are currently booking appointments within 24- to 48-hours of request.

For details on other COVID-19 testing options available in Northumberland through the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland see the OHT-N website, ohtnorthumberland.ca