

To: Regional Health Care Providers

Re: Referrals to London Health Sciences Centre

Date: December 8, 2020

There are currently COVID-19 outbreaks in several units at London Health Sciences Centre's University Hospital. LHSC is working collaboratively in partnership with the Middlesex-London Health Unit to implement enhanced precautions and measures to limit the COVID-19 outbreaks at University Hospital and keep staff, physicians, patients and the community safe.

LHSC remains open for care. At this time, services have not been reduced at Victoria Hospital and referrals continue to be accepted.

The following changes to services are taking place at University Hospital:

- LHSC is postponing all non-urgent and non-emergent surgeries and procedures at University Hospital.
- As of December 1, 2020, ambulatory or outpatient activity at University Hospital is reduced to only urgent and emergent appointments, procedures and diagnostic services.
- When possible, all other clinic appointments are being rescheduled as virtual appointments.

Some clinics and physician offices at University Hospital are still accepting referrals from health care providers in the region. Please contact the clinic or physician if you have questions about their current service offerings.

Referring health care providers will receive confirmation if the referred patient's appointment has been scheduled. The referral will be returned if the test, exam or procedure cannot be scheduled at this time. Please consider referring patients to a non-hospital provider if available.

All patients with previously scheduled appointments will receive direct communication from their hospital health-care team should they need to make changes to their care. If the patient has not been contacted, then their scheduled care is proceeding as normal.

Please be assured that precautions, practices and protocols to address COVID-19 within the hospital continue to be followed carefully. The addition of these control measures is the next step in a tiered outbreak response with the ultimate goal of curbing transmission within the hospital.

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time. For LHSC's COVID-19 updates, please visit the website at www.lhsc.on.ca/coronavirus. Information related to the outbreak at University Hospital is available here: <https://www.lhsc.on.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-outbreak-information>.