COVID-19
Update on Phase One of Surge Plan

December 17, 2020 update

Saskatchewan Health Authority

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19
SHA services will adapt and expand to meet the projected COVID-19 patient demand, while continuing to deliver essential services to non-COVID-19 patients throughout the duration of the event.
• Progress on Surge Targets
  • Offensive
  • Defensive
  • Outbreak/isolation labour pools

• Escalated efforts to respond to outbreaks

• Status of Service Slow Downs
Testing Targets – Offensive Strategy

Current Sustainable capacity:
- Maximum test site capacity = 4,654/day tests
- Sustainable daily Lab capacity* = 3,400/day

Timelines for stepped up capacity:
- Lab Projected Daily Capacity* = 4,000 by Dec 31

* Does not include additional capacity being on-boarded through Point of Care Testing options and third party testing (i.e. Quantum Genetix)

New testing initiatives:
- Rapid & Point-of-Care Testing
- Expanded hours in Regina & S’toon to 7 days/week in January
- Improving public communications to highlight non-peak periods for testing to help reduce wait times and increase testing capacity
Contact Tracing Targets – Offensive Strategy

Current capacity:
• At **avg. cases of 262.4/day** for Dec. 8-14, SHA teams were reporting that they are generally meeting target times for positive case notification but struggling to meet targets for contact notification and daily case monitoring.

Stepping up capacity:
• Challenges remain around the availability of **licensed health care professionals** for key components of the work (primarily the steps in red in the illustration below).

• **206 additional unlicensed staff** have been identified through the Government of Saskatchewan (Ministries & Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency) and Federal Government (Statistics Canada) to support contact tracing (primarily steps in yellow below)

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* Does not always occur in linear order above
**Current Status of Acute Care Surge**

- Target: enable care for **250 COVID positive patients** requiring hospitalization.
  - ✓ Resources have been identified to meet this target if required

**Current Status of ICU Surge**

- Target: enable care for **64 COVID positive patients** requiring ICU
  - Although nearing target, human resources/staffing remains a barrier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dec 3 Target = Enable Care for up to 64 COVID+ Patients Requiring ICU</th>
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<td><strong>S’toon</strong></td>
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- **Red** = Area of Significant Concern
- **Yellow** = Barriers exist
- **Green** = Necessary resources identified
Key Strategy: Create pools of health care workers in six areas for outbreak response

- Target of approx. **300-400 staff identified** for this purpose.

- Since Dec 3 the SHA has identified **pool of approx. 117 staff** for redeployment for this purpose
  - Does not include all staff immediately redeployed to existing outbreak situations (e.g. **70 to date for Extendicare Parkside**)

- Given **extremely high demand**, the SHA will be continually identifying more staff appropriate for this purpose until risk begins to subside

The math on the high potential impact of outbreaks:

70+ extra SHA staff to date redeployed to Extendicare Parkside (i.e. a single facility)

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Vulnerable populations in **150+ long term care homes, 60+ hospitals & hundreds of personal care homes**

= Potential gap of **thousands of staff** if outbreaks continue to grow
Urgent focus on outbreaks and vulnerable populations in care homes:

- Continue to apply lessons learned
- Continuing to identify sites of high risk for inspection
- More resources for infection prevention & control & safety for high risk sites and where there are outbreaks;
- Continue to review and identify facilities that may have poor ventilation & mitigate risk
- Identify resource needs and redeployments required to support vaccine rollout to key sites with vulnerable residents/patients.
- Expand point of care testing to facilitate early detection and rapid response to outbreak situations.
Service Slow Downs

- Increase **of 377 staff made available to the labour pool** since Dec 3 announcement, accounting for **64% of target** set for this work.
  - Staff in the labour pool **continue to work** as normal until appropriate placement is ready

- Of the **more than 900 services** the SHA is tracking, the SHA has approved **slow downs for approximately 200 services**
  - Many of these services continue as normal until appropriate opportunities are identified for redeployment to pandemic response.

- **Surgical slow downs** are occurring in **Saskatoon/Regina** (35% reduction) and **Prince Albert/North Battleford** (largely limited to urgent/emergent & cancer surgeries only)

- **Safety precautions** can some times also **indirectly cause service slow downs**
  - e.g. extra time required between Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures.

- **Further service slow downs are being considered** to ensure appropriate resources for outbreak management, contact tracing and other areas where continuity of care for those in need is threatened.
Key Messages

• Safety of our patients, residents and health care workers is our #1 priority

• Committed to:
  ✓ Maintaining non-COVID services as much as possible
  ✓ Keeping service disruptions as localized, targeted and time-limited as possible
  ✓ Staging surges & slow downs to meet demand

• Protecting the health care system is in the public’s hands, we need your help
COVID-19 Health System Response Update

Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan
The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.