COVID-19
Update on Phase One of Surge Plan

December 17, 2020 update

Saskatchewan
Health Authority

www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

PURPOSE

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.

Saskatchewan
Health Authority

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

OUTLINE

- **Progress on Surge Targets**
    - Offensive
    - Defensive
    - Outbreak/isolation labour pools

- **Escalated efforts to respond to outbreaks**

- **Status of Service Slow Downs**

Saskatchewan
Health Authority

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

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

811 → 50+ Test sites / Drive Thru → Transport → High Volume Testing / Point of Care Testing → Result

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)

| Test result - positive | #1. Rapid Case Notification | #2. Case Investigation | #3. Elicit contact names | #4. Initial notification of contacts | #5. Daily monitoring of cases | #6. Monitoring of contacts |

* Does not always occur in linear order above

Surge Targets – Defensive Strategy

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

Dec 3 Target = Enable Care for up to 64 COVID+ Patients Requiring ICU					
	Beds	Equipment	Supplies	Vent capacity-oxygen	HR/staffing
S'toon					Below targeted ICU capacity due staffing challenges, high northern caseloads
North					
Regina					Can meet targets, but general staffing challenges due to outbreaks/isolation
Rural					

Red = Area of Significant Concern

Yellow = Barriers exist

Green = Necessary resources identified

Outbreaks/Isolation Targets

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)

X

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

Escalating Outbreak Efforts

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.

Saskatchewan Health Authority

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

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

Saskatchewan
Health Authority

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

COVID-19 Health System Response Update

Saskatchewan Health Authority

saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

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.