

April 19, 2020

To: Faculty, Residents and Staff in Mental Health Program

From: Jitender Sareen MD, Medical Director, HSC and WRHA Mental Health Program

CC: Shared Health Leadership, WRHA Executive and Hospital (HSC, SBH, GH) Executives, Mental Health Program, Paging

Re: COVID+ Adult patients in acute care settings in Winnipeg that require psychiatric consultation or admission to a mental health unit

There will be a group of psychiatrists that will rotate through this coverage (7 days per week). Dr. Josh Nepon (jnepon1@hsc.mb.ca) is the Medical Director of this service.

For the week of April 20 -27, 2020 - Dr. Nina Kuzenko will be the psychiatrist on call. She can be reached through HSC Paging - 204-787-2071.

The service will provide consultation and/or attending care to the following patients:

1. COVID+ patients on Medical, Surgical or Intensive Care Units (ICUs) at HSC, SBH and Grace Hospital.

Note: Consult – Liaison Service to Non-COVID and COVID Suspects will remain site based and follow the usual process.

2. COVID+ patients on Mental Health inpatient units at HSC (PY1South) and SBH M1.

The two units are ready to open if required this week. We will open only one unit at a time based on volumes.

As of today, there have been no COVID+ patients on an inpatient mental health unit in Manitoba.

Due to the high volume of COVID suspect patients, if all of COVID suspect beds are filled at HSC and VGH, we will use a limited number of COVID+ unit beds temporarily for COVID Suspect patients.

The units will only open based on approval from Mental Health Program and Site Senior Management leadership.

To preserve the limited supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and minimize exposure to patients and staff, the psychiatry team will begin with telephone or virtual (video conferencing) assessments in all settings (ED, CL, COVID+ units). If required, one psychiatry staff or delegate will provide in-person assessment and follow appropriate public health procedures. Please ensure that physicians and nursing staff are aware of this process.