



CEO Report to the Board

July 27, 2022



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1.0 COVID-19 Developments

Provincial and federal updates

COVID-19 fourth dose

- **Federal:** In [updated guidance](#), the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that individuals who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should be offered a fall COVID-19 vaccine booster dose regardless of the number of booster doses previously received. This includes: Older adults age 65 and older; residents of long-term care facilities or congregate living settings for seniors; adults in or from First Nations, Métis, or Inuit communities; adults in racialized and/or marginalized communities; and residents of other congregate living settings. NACI also recommends all other individuals 12 to 64 years of age “may be offered” a fall COVID-19 booster dose regardless of the number of booster doses previously received.
- **Provincial:** The Ontario government is [expanding eligibility for second booster doses](#) to Ontarians age 18 and over, effective July 14. Second booster doses are being offered at an interval of five months after an individual receives their first booster dose. The province is also extending the availability of free rapid antigen tests to the general public through existing channels until December 31, 2022.

Canada invests in research on outpatient medications for COVID-19

The Government of Canada is investing \$10 million to create a pan-Canadian platform to advance research into the [effectiveness and clinical challenges of new COVID-19 treatments](#) in non-hospitalized patients. The Canadian ADAPtive Platform Trial of COVID-19 Therapeutics in Community Settings (Can-ADAPT COVID) will be led by Dr. Andrew Pinto, Director of the Upstream Lab of Unity Health Toronto. In collaboration with patients, community partners, and research networks across Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Union, Dr. Pinto and his team will investigate outpatient medications for COVID-19 such as nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (brand name Paxlovid™) and provide key insights into whether treatments prevent hospitalization and post COVID-19 condition (long COVID). This study will also offer timely evidence to clinical researchers, health system managers, and public health officials in Canada and abroad.

Vaccine for children under five

- **Federal:** Health Canada has [authorized the use of the Moderna Spikevax COVID-19 vaccine in children](#) aged six months to five years. This is the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in this age group. Approximately 1.7 million children are now eligible for vaccination against COVID-19.
- **Provincial:** Starting July 28, parents and caregivers of children aged six months to under five years will be able to [book appointments for the paediatric COVID-19 vaccine](#). The vaccine will be available through public health unit clinics, participating paediatricians, primary care providers and pharmacies.

Random testing resumes for travellers

The Government of Canada is resuming [mandatory random COVID-19 testing as of July 19 for fully-vaccinated travellers](#) arriving by air to the four largest airports across the country – Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. All testing will be completed outside of airports, either via an in-person appointment at select testing provider locations and pharmacies, or a virtual appointment for a self-swab test.

Sick days for COVID-19

The Ontario government is [extending paid sick days](#) for COVID-19 to March 31, 2023. Eligible workers will continue to receive up to \$200 a day for up to three days if they need to get tested, vaccinated, receive booster shots, self-isolate, or care for a family member who is ill from COVID-19. The government will continue to reimburse eligible employers for the paid leave days.

St. Joseph's COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Risk-Based Response Plan

For more than two years, health care organizations, including St. Joseph's, have been operating in various levels of response/crisis. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, with variants continuing to emerge and mutate and ongoing development of vaccines, there is a need to transition to a state of "living with" COVID-19 and move away from crisis mode. To shift St. Joseph's towards this new state, the Senior Leadership Team has approved the COVID-19 Risk-Based Response Plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide the organization, our leaders, physicians and staff with a roadmap to a pandemic response that can be assimilated into every day operations. The COVID-19 Risk-Based Response identifies, through a series of metrics and associated risk, an overall organizational risk in the form of red (high response), yellow (intermediate response) and green (low response). The plan breaks down each element of the COVID-19 response (i.e. use of meeting rooms, personal protective equipment requirements, resident/patient testing, etc.) and provides infection prevention and control recommendations that correspond to each of these elements according to risk status. The plan will be reviewed by the Pandemic Operations Team and Joint Health and Safety Committee Co-Chairs prior to the launch, which is anticipated in early August 2022.

2.0 Strategy in Action

Reaching Out to Our Community

COAST- an update

As previously reported, St. Joseph's has partnered with Canadian Mental Health Association Elgin-Middlesex (CMHA), Middlesex-London Paramedic Service (MLPS) and London Police Service to create the Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST). Building upon the strengths of each organization, the purpose of COAST is to improve collaboration between health care services and police for individuals age 16 and older living in the community who are at risk of crisis due to addictions, poverty and/or homelessness.

As an update, COAST has entered its second year, following its original one-year pilot, having received partial funding pending from Ontario West and a grant from the London Community Foundation supporting the MLPS. The focus on year two is to address opportunities identified in a formal evaluation completed by Carleton University and to complete an environmental scan to:

- Enhance culturally safe care through a health equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging lens
- Determine feasibility of spread and scale across the region

In addition to this work being aligned to St. Joseph's strategic direction, expansion across the region is a shared interest to St. Joseph's and the newly amalgamated and integrated CMHA-

Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services as both organizations have teams extending beyond London, including Middlesex, St. Thomas-Elgin and Woodstock-Oxford.

Long-term care emergency planning

Tanya Pol, Mount Hope's new Executive Director, recently led the coordination of an emergency planning session between regional long-term care homes and community partners (e.g. fire, police, City of London). With a new and enhanced requirement for emergency planning in the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021, each home is required to consult with entities that may be involved in, or provide, emergency services in the area the home is located. In organizing this collaborative approach that engages all homes at once, leaders are able to learn from one another and community partners have the opportunity to connect with all homes at the same time rather than attend individual meetings with each home. Tanya had the opportunity to present the legislative requirements to our community partners to broaden the knowledge and understanding of our requirements and the need for ongoing engagement and collaboration.

Biigajiiskaan open house

On July 8, staff and physicians at Parkwood Institute Mental Health Care Building were invited to attend an open house to learn more about Biigajiiskaan: Indigenous Pathways to Mental Wellness. The open house was an opportunity to gain understanding of Biigajiiskaan programming, tour the unique space, and meet the dedicated team who create a more positive experience for Indigenous people within the health care system.

Co-delivered by St. Joseph's and Atlohsa Family Healing Services, Biigajiiskaan is a referral-based mental wellness program that aims to provide accessible, culturally-safe, specialized care for Indigenous people with serious mental illness, addictions and concurrent disorders.

Family council networking

Paul Mansfield, Chair of the Family Council at Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care, with the support of the Mount Hope leadership team, presented at the Family Council of Ontario annual meeting on the development of a Southwestern Ontario Family Council Cluster. Across the province, some family councils have taken on leadership in their communities to organize regularly scheduled networking meetings creating a community-based support network or 'cluster' of councils. Among other things, clusters support the adoption of best practices, sharing of experiences, creation of partnerships, identification of common issues, and advocacy.

Paul and the Mount Hope Family Council have taken the lead in developing a cluster in the South West area. The purpose of the meeting was to share information on the work of the various councils in attendance, benefits of a cluster, and to gauge the level of interest in joining a networking meeting.

Advancing Excellence in Care Together

Smooth and timely transitions

The Stroke Rehabilitation Program at Parkwood Institute Main Building has launched a new process for patients being discharged from the stroke rehabilitation inpatient unit who will be transitioned to the Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Program or the Community Stroke Rehabilitation Team. The goal of this work was to align with best practices around facilitating smooth and timely transitions from one care team to another. With this process, patients who require outpatient or community rehab are identified early on by the inpatient team. Using internal communications systems, relevant information is shared with the receiving team. Prior to

discharge, the patient and their caregiver(s) as appropriate meet with the most appropriate health care providers from each team. Patients and caregivers are then provided with contact information for their new care team so they can reach out if questions or concerns arise post discharge from hospital.

This process is being evaluated and patient and caregiver feedback is being gathered to continue to shape this initiative.

Preparing for Accreditation 2023

Preparation for Accreditation 2023 and the Accreditation Canada on-site visit scheduled for fall 2023 is well underway. The following two important steps have recently been completed:

- **Tracer training:** “Tracers” are designed to “trace” the care experiences of patients in our organization. It is a way to analyze the organization's system of providing care, treatment or services using actual patients as the framework. By conducting tracers, we can test compliance for Accreditation Canada standards and Required Organizational Practices and implement improvements prior to surveyors arriving.

In June 2022, 30 staff and leaders attended tracer training, which was delivered by Accreditation Canada online over a three-day period. As part of the course, six tracers were successfully completed as of June 29, 2022. Training will be offered again in the fall with a goal to include more frontline staff and patient and family advisors.

- **Canadian Patient Safety Culture Survey (Can PSCS):** In May 2022, clinical staff completed the Can PSCS, a required component of accreditation. The survey evaluates staff and physicians’ perceptions of how we approach patient safety and report patient safety incidents. There were 584 responses to the survey, a 26 per cent response rate, down slightly from 2019 but exceeding the minimum threshold required by Accreditation Canada. Results have stayed fairly stable since the last survey in 2018. At an organizational level, two questions out of 23 show an increase of five per cent or greater in the percentage of positive responses compared with the 2018 results:
 - “My supervisor/manager says a good word when he/she sees a job done according to established patient safety procedures.” - 6.1 per cent increase in percent positive (59.7 per cent to 65.9 per cent).
 - “Individuals involved in patient safety incidents have a quick and easy way to report what happened.” - 5.1 per cent increase in percent positive (69.1 per cent to 74.2 per cent).

A small working group is being convened to develop organizational recommendations for action based on the survey results and each leader will look at the survey results from their area to develop local improvement plans as required.

Survey results are reviewed by Accreditation Canada surveyors in advance of the on-site survey and action plans are reviewed by the surveyors during the on-site visit.

Leading in Research and Innovation

Innovative imaging shows cause of long-COVID symptoms

Many who experience what is now called ‘long-COVID’ report brain fog, breathlessness, fatigue and limitations in doing everyday things, often lasting weeks and months post-infection. Using functional MRI with inhaled xenon gas, researchers have now identified for the first time that these debilitating

symptoms are related to microscopic abnormalities that affect how oxygen is exchanged from the lungs to the red blood cells. There also doesn't appear to be any difference in severity of this abnormality between patients who had been hospitalized with COVID-19, and those who recovered without hospitalization.

The LIVECOVIDFREE study, based at five centres across Ontario and led by Western University professor Grace Parraga, is the largest MRI study of patients with long-COVID. Study co-author is Dr. Michael Nicholson, a respirologist with the Post-Acute COVID-19 Program at St. Joseph's and the former Urgent COVID Care Clinic (LUC3) at London Health Sciences Centre. The researchers recruited patients with suspected long-COVID from both LHSC and St. Joseph's.

By having study participants inhale polarized xenon gas while inside the MRI, the researchers could see in real-time the function of the 300-500 million tiny alveolar sacs, which are about 1/5 of a mm in diameter and responsible for delivering oxygen to the blood. Using this MRI technique, the researchers found the transition of the oxygen into the red blood cells was depressed in symptomatic patients who had had COVID-19, compared to healthy volunteers. By understanding the cause, clinicians have been able to target treatment for the long-COVID patients. A one-year follow-up is now underway to better understand these results longitudinally. Read more on [Western's website](#).

\$2.8 million project to support mental health of Canadian health care workers

Researchers at Lawson Health Research Institute's MacDonald Franklin Operational Stress Injury (OSI) Research Centre have received \$2.8 million from the Public Health Agency of Canada for a project that will support the mental health and wellbeing of Canadian health care workers. The project, titled "Promoting Resilience and Mental Health: Adapting Canada's Department of National Defence Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR) Program to Support Canadian Health Care Workers", will adapt the current R2MR Program created for the Canadian military. The aim is to identify mental health and wellness barriers in health care institutions and create a streamlined framework that will build and promote supportive environments within institutions across the nation.

The project is being led by psychiatrist Dr. Don Richardson, Director of the MacDonald Franklin OSI Research Centre, which is located at Parkwood Institute, and scientist Dr. Anthony Nazarov (PhD). It stems from a recent study by the team that focused on moral distress and the mental health of Canadian health care workers.

Once the research team has adapted the current R2MR Program, it will be tested with health care workers. If proven effective, it would provide additional tools to help health care workers cope, improve their resiliency and hopefully mitigate future staff shortages. Read more on [Lawson's website](#).

Collaborating on a national dementia prevention program

Researchers at Lawson Health Research Institute are collaborating with Canada's largest dementia research initiative, the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging, to study an innovative online program that offers older adults the opportunity to increase their knowledge of dementia and improve lifestyle risk factors. The program, Brain Health PRO (BHPro), focuses on seven different modifiable dementia risk domains: exercise, nutrition, sleep, psychological and social health, cognitive engagement, heart health, and vision and hearing. For each, the program includes 10-minute educational videos, as well as interactive activities for users to complete. Participants will also be sent portable EEG headsets to measure their brain activity during sleep, and accelerometers to track their physical activity.

Using the BHPPro modules, participants will learn how to improve their physical and mental health and reduce their risk of cognitive impairment, explains Dr. Michael Borrie, Lawson scientist and Medical Director of the Aging Brain and Memory Clinic at Parkwood Institute. Read more on [Lawson's website](#).

Cyclotron to produce new imaging agent

Lawson Health Research Institute is the first in Canada to enter a sublicense agreement with the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization to produce PSMA-1007, a new imaging agent that could help improve the detection of prostate cancer. The radiopharmaceutical tracer can locate and bind to prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA) – a protein on the surface of prostate cancer cells. This imaging agent makes the prostate cancer cells visible with PET/CT (positron emission tomography/computed tomography) imaging.

The agreement means Lawson's Cyclotron & PET Radiochemistry Facility at St. Joseph's Hospital will produce a local supply of PSMA-1007. Lawson's cyclotron is one of fewer than roughly two dozen facilities in Canada and delivers products to the Greater Toronto Area, Windsor and London. Being able to produce PSMA-1007 locally is exciting as radiopharmaceuticals decay quickly after production and outsourcing comes with logistical challenges if a production run or transportation fails. Read more on [Lawson's website](#).

Contributions of registered practical nurses in rehabilitative care

Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) are known to significantly contribute to patient care on rehabilitation units, yet their contributions to the recovery of individuals' physical, functional, cognitive, perceptual and social goals in rehabilitation have been poorly described and not well addressed in current Canadian academic literature.

Supported by a grant from the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario (WeRPN), Christina Khan, an RPN on the inpatient stroke rehabilitation unit at Parkwood Institute Main Building, has stepped into a research fellowship role and has joined a research team led by Dr. Denise Connelly of Western University, in partnership with Lawson Health Research Institute, WeRPN, University of Windsor and three Ontario Hospitals. The research team has initiated a study, "Building Capacity in Rehabilitation Services: Mapping Rehabilitation Nursing Care Practices of Registered Practical Nurses in Stroke and Geriatric Rehabilitation Units", to examine the contributions of RPNs to the care of stroke and geriatric rehabilitation patients. Recognizing nursing contributions to inpatient rehabilitation will provide evidence to build standardized capacity in rehabilitation services, inform gaps in nursing academic programs and professional development resources about rehabilitation nursing practice, and help facilitate the creation of a national rehabilitation nursing competency model.

MRI technology adapted to image salt within the kidneys

Scientists at Lawson Health Research Institute have adapted PET/MRI technology at St. Joseph's to accurately image salt within the kidneys of patients with kidney disease.

Salt is toxic in patients with kidney failure yet imaging salt within the kidneys has never been accurately accomplished. The Lawson study, led by Dr. Christopher McIntyre, nephrologist at London Health Sciences Centre, is the first study to use MRI to look at salt within the kidneys with a wide range of participants with different body types, as well as patients with kidney disease. The research team also imaged patients who had a combination of kidney disease and heart failure because it is especially important for these patients to be able to release salt and water as part of their treatments.

The finding is considered a significant step forward in diagnosing and managing both chronic and acute kidney disease. Read more on [Lawson's website](#).

Empowering people

Narrative Resiliency Project launches microsite

A [new microsite](#) for St. Joseph's Narrative Resiliency Project has been launched featuring submissions received throughout the pandemic experience. The site is a hub of meaningful messages, photographs, poems and stories contributed by staff and physicians to help inspire, guide and heal while coping with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As previously reported, the Narrative Resiliency Project aims to heal through narrative by capturing the lived experience of staff, physicians, learners and volunteers.

Pride London Festival

As previously reported, St. Joseph's raised the Progress Flag across all sites on the first day of Pride Month – June 1, 2022 – to celebrate equal rights and diversity, and promote a more inclusive society. Pride Month also provided an opportunity to engage with our teams, learn about the experiences of our 2SLGBTQ+ communities within St. Joseph's, and share ideas on how we can be a more inclusive organization. All staff and physicians were asked how we could recognize and participate in the Pride London Festival and how we can continue to advance our journey of equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB) more broadly. As a result of feedback received, St. Joseph's participated in the Pride London Festival week July 14-24 as follows:

- Pride London events were communicated to staff and physicians.
- The Progress Pride flag was again raised at our sites and remained up from July 14 – 24
- St. Joseph's was an entry in the London Pride Parade on July 24. A hospital shuttle was decorated, a banner made and all staff and physicians, along with friends and family, were invited walk the route together wearing bright colours to show their support for the 2SLGBTQ+ community. About 70 individuals signed up to represent St. Joseph's. Rainbow umbrellas, Pride flags and candy for handing out along the route were provided to participants.
- St. Joseph's Infectious Diseases Care Program and the Regional Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Program hosted a booth at Victoria Park in the Community Tent from July 22-24 to share educational information and details about our services.

As we embark on a learning journey together, we will be hiring for a new dedicated role at St. Joseph's to lead the development and support of our work focused on EDIB. In the months ahead, we will be implementing EDIB education and training for staff, physicians and leaders.

Psychological safety leader training

Organizational Development and Learning Services has launched an eLearning module "The Leader's Role in Creating and Maintaining Psychological Safety" focused on helping leaders understand psychological safety and their role in creating and maintaining psychological safety within their teams. This is the first such learning on this subject and is considered an important piece of leadership.

Psychological safety is foundational to high functioning teams, critical for giving and receiving feedback, and integral to practicing our organizational vital behaviours (speak up, ask for help, hold each other accountable). St. Joseph's sees value in all leaders having a strong understanding of psychological safety and working towards creating this kind of environment and culture for all teams.

3.0 Other - Finance/Facilities/Operational/Legislation

Temporary retention incentive for nurses

As previously reported, the Ontario government announced in March 2022 it would be providing a lump sum payment of up to \$5,000 for eligible full-time nurses and a prorated payment of up to \$5,000 for eligible part-time and casual nursing staff across the province as a [retention incentive](#). Public sector employers were required to consider various factors to determine implementation and eligibility of the incentive program at their facilities. As an update, St. Joseph's made the first payment on June 17, 2022 (eligible for up to \$2500) to registered nurses who met the qualification for this payment. The second payment (up to \$2,500) for those who qualify requires nurses to be employed on September 1, 2022, and will be paid at a date to-be-determined after that date.

4.0 Recognition

A passion for serving veterans

Congratulations to Heather Tales, Director of St. Joseph's Veterans Care Program, for receiving the Platinum Jubilee Award.

In celebration of the [Platinum Jubilee](#), which pays tribute to the historic 70th anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Member of Parliament Karen Vecchio honoured [70 deserving individuals](#) in the Elgin-Middlesex-London area who demonstrate commitment to our community, volunteerism and/or have achieved an extraordinary accomplishment. Among hundreds of submissions, Heather won the award in the category of Health, Wellness, Activity and Sport. She is recognized for her work and passion for serving the veterans at Parkwood Institute and patients from the Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP who receive care as part of St. Joseph's Operational Stress Injury Clinic.

St. Joseph's congratulates Heather on this prestigious and well-deserved honour.

Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry Awards of Excellence

The Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry Awards of Excellence recognize those who enrich life and learning at the school. Recipients are honoured for their commitment to the school's mission, innovative approaches to their work, and for their leadership. Congratulations to the following St. Joseph's physicians on receiving a 2022 Schulich award of excellence:

- Dr. Varinder Dua, Psychiatry, Continuing Medical Education Educator Award
- Dr. Vadim Beletsky, Psychiatry, Schulich Educator Award - Graduate/Postgraduate Education
- Dr. Frank Myslik, Medicine, Schulich Educator Award - Graduate/Postgraduate Education
- Dr. Aturan Shanmugalingam, Psychiatry, Schulich Educator Award - Undergraduate Education

5.0 St. Joseph's in the News

[London researchers adapting military mental health program for health-care workers](#), London Free Press, June 28, 2022

[London researchers get federal funding to adapt nationwide PTSD program for health-care workers](#), CBC London, June 28, 2022

[Western researchers use MRI to learn cause of long-COVID symptoms](#), London News Today, June 29, 2022

[Revolving door continues among top brass at London Health Sciences Centre](#), London Free Press, June, 30, 2022

['You're kidding': Dream Home lottery winner in disbelief after clinching grand prize](#), London Free Press, June 30, 2022

[London, Ont. couple takes home Dream Lottery grand prize ahead of Canada Day](#), Global News/980 CFPL, June 30, 2022

[Two Londoners claim Dream Lottery top prizes](#), Blackburn News, June 30, 2022

[What causes long COVID? Canadian researchers think they've found a key clue](#), Global National (online), June 28, 2022

[Ontario researchers focus on possible clue of long COVID](#), Global National (broadcast), June 28, 2022

[Cause of long-COVID symptoms revealed by lung-imaging research at Western University](#), CBC London, June 28, 2022

[Western-led study points to possible long COVID trigger in lungs](#), London Free Press, June 28, 2022

[Canadian researchers think they may have found a key clue and what causes long COVID](#), AM980, June 28, 2022

[Research into long-COVID by Western University](#), CBC Afternoon Drive, June 28, 2022

[Innovative lung-imaging technique shows cause of long-COVID symptoms](#), Western News, June 28, 2022

[Western researchers use MRI to learn cause of long-COVID symptoms](#), Blackburn News, June 29, 2022

[Lung imaging technology reveals cause of long-COVID symptoms: Western study](#), CTV News, June 29, 2022

[New tool shows promise in helping people with brain injuries](#), Hospital News, July 2022

[Dream Lottery winners announced](#), Norfolk Today, 98.9 myFM News/Oldies 99.7, July 4, 2022

['It's not in your head — it's in your lungs': A researcher on her long-COVID findings](#), TVO Today, July 5, 2022

[Prostate cancer imaging research could bring big benefits](#), Lawson Health Research Institute, July 6, 2022

[Can an Ontario breakthrough help long COVID sufferers?](#), This Matters (Toronto Star podcast), July 6, 2022

[Strathroy hospital becomes region's first to use new technology for breast tumour removal.](#) London Free Press, July 7, 2022

[What is impacted by the Rogers internet outage in London, Ont.](#), Global News, July 8, 2022

[Several service disruptions in London area due to Rogers outage](#), CTV London, July 8, 2022

[A look at how the Rogers outage is impacting London](#), CBC London, July 8, 2022

[Rogers outage: No internet, lots of frustration in London, nationwide](#), London Free Press, July 8, 2022

[Scientists say cause of long COVID symptoms identified](#) (interview with Dr. Michael Nicholson), CNN International, July 10, 2022

[London-based researchers develop new way to detect salt in kidneys](#), Blackburn News, July 11, 2022

[Fecal microbial transplant: What is it and how it can it be life-saving](#), Global News, July 10, 2022

[You'll likely catch COVID-19 again and again. Will each round feel milder?](#), CBC News, July 17, 2022

[ONERUN comes to an end after 12 years raising funds for families affected by cancer](#), Global News/980 CFPL, July 19, 2022

[Death investigation underway after body found near Wellington and Commissioners](#), CBC London, July 22, 2022

[Cancer survivor's annual mega-run ends after 12 years, \\$1.8M raised](#), London Free Press, July 24, 2022

[Death of woman found in south London field not suspicious: police](#), London News Today, July 25, 2022

[LHSC names presidents for its three hospitals among executive shakeup](#), London Free Press, July 27, 2022

6.0 Environmental Scan

[Premier Ford unveils new cabinet to build Ontario](#), Office of the Premier, June 24, 2022

[COVID-19 vaccines saved 20M lives in 1st year, scientists say](#), CTV News, June 24, 2022

[New Omicron subvariant expected to become dominant COVID-19 strain in Ontario](#), CTV News, June 27, 2022

[Canada's COVID-19 response stacks up well against other nations: study](#), Global News, June 27, 2022

[London hospital stands by COVID vaccine policy as fired staffers file lawsuits seeking \\$700K](#), London Free Press, July 1, 2022

[Long ER wait times, staffing challenges wreak havoc on small southwestern Ontario hospitals](#), CBC News, July 4, 2022

[Ontario's 7th wave of COVID-19 is here, top doctor confirms amid exponential growth](#), CBC News, July 6, 2022

[Researchers find similarities between COVID brain fog and 'chemo brain'](#), CTV News, July 13, 2022

[From two months to 20 minutes: new technology reduces time to diagnosis](#), London Health Sciences Centre, July 13, 2022

[Health care in crisis, Part 1: Ontario's hospital-association president on a system 'under massive pressure'](#), TVO Today, July 19, 2022

[Health care in crisis, Part 2: Ontario's top nursing advocate on a system that's 'sinking – and sinking fast'](#), TVO Today, July 19, 2022

[Ontario hospital workers unions demand action to address staffing shortages as ERs forced to shut down](#), CTV News, July 21, 2022

['We need this now': Ontario pharmacists say plan to let them prescribe drugs doesn't go far enough](#), CBC News, July 22, 2022