



Date	December 21, 2021	Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program
To	Paramedics of SWORBHP Region	4056 Meadowbrook Drive, unit 145
From	Matthew Davis, M.D., M.Sc., FRCPC Regional Medical Director, SWORBHP	London, Ontario, Canada N6L 1E5 Phone: (519) 667-6718 Fax: (519) 652-2051
Subject	COVID-19 - Omicron variant	http://www.lhsc.on.ca

With increasing incidence of both asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID-19 related infections within our region due to the omicron variant, medical council continues to advocate for paramedic safety during these unprecedented times.

As such, medical council endorses paramedics utilizing the **Considerations for Paramedics Managing Patients during the COVID-19 Pandemic Version 6** (<https://www.lhsc.on.ca/southwest-ontario-regional-base-hospital-program/announcements#novel-coronavirus-updates>) in any patient encounter whereby there is a concern for COVID-19 infection.

Your safety as a frontline healthcare provider is paramount. As case counts rise, there is a need to have a much higher degree of suspicion that patients may be infected with COVID-19. Given the increased transmissibility of the omicron variant, it is key to ensure that you continue to use proper donning, use and doffing of all necessary PPE.

In situations whereby the clinical benefit outweighs the risk of COVID-19 transmissibility and paramedics elect to utilize treatments that have been associated with increased aerosolization of COVID-19 (ex -CPAP, intubation), please ensure that there are no unprotected personnel in the vicinity and that these AGMPs are not performed in areas whereby the public may be exposed to the aerosolization of COVID-19. Please remember to stop CPAP and switch to another source of oxygen prior to entering the hospital. Medical council continues to advise that salbutamol should be administered via the MDI route only. Nebulized salbutamol should be restricted given the higher risk of COVID-19 transmission due to increased aerosolization.

We acknowledge that this pandemic is taking a severe toll on many healthcare providers, including paramedics. SWORBHP recognizes that the added layer of this pandemic has made a difficult job even more challenging for paramedics. Your physical and mental health is key to providing the continued excellent care that you have during this pandemic. Check in on each other, don't hesitate to ask for help if you are struggling and do your best to find some time to recharge whenever you can.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Davis', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Davis, M.D., M.Sc., FRCPC
Regional Medical Director,
Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program