



Media Statement

For Immediate Release:

November 15, 2022

Children's and Adult Emergency Departments

Like all healthcare organizations across the province, we are experiencing a significant surge in system capacity pressures throughout our Emergency Departments (EDs), Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and Inpatient Units with more patients presenting with viruses - including COVID - as cold and flu season arrives early. We anticipate significant ongoing pressures in the coming weeks and support the government's recommendation for individuals to mask in public places, as we know masking is one of the most effective tools for preventing disease transmission.

The health and safety of the patients we care for, including the most vulnerable and paediatric patients, is our top priority. The overall occupancy at Children's Hospital is at 115 per cent, which is higher than we have ever been. The average wait time in the Children's ED is between six to eight hours for non-urgent and non-emergent concerns. This is mainly due to patients with RSV and influenza. The Victoria and University adult occupancy also remains above 100 per cent with increased wait times in our Emergency Departments often experienced with current health system pressures. Our health care teams continue to monitor occupancy levels daily, and continue to triage patients by acuity.

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