**To:** All Clinical and Administrative Leaders including Chiefs
**From:** Dr. Paul Woods (*President & CEO template*)
**Subject:** LHSC Clinical Services Expansion – Initial Plan
**Attachment:** LHSCClinicalExpansionPlan-Phase1-FINAL.pdf

Dear Leaders,

Tomorrow morning, LHSC will be announcing that we are moving forward with an initial plan to gradually and carefully expand some clinical services that were paused during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This follows the [recent amendment to the Ministry of Health’s Directive #2](https://www.oha.com/Bulletins/Directive%202%20May%2026%202020.pdf) and regional approval of the hospital’s plan by Ontario Health West and support from the Middlesex-London Health Unit.

Planned surgeries, procedures and related ambulatory care for patients at LHSC are slowly resuming, with prioritization based on clinical evidence and need. **You can see more information about LHSC’s Clinical Service Expansion plan in the Phase 1 Summary attached.** It will be made available for all staff on the intranet tomorrow morning.

**It’s important to note that this initial expansion will not see LHSC return to its pre-COVID clinical services volumes.** We are required to have adequate staffing and sufficient volumes of medications and PPE for any expanded services. Hospitals are mandated to a maximum occupancy rate of 85 per cent, or to be able to free up 15 per cent very quickly to accommodate a surge in COVID-19 patients. This will require continued coordination with other hospitals, home and community care, and primary care services. We also have hundreds of staff currently redeployed to support long-term care, the active entrance screening and assessment centres.

A wide range of support material will be made available to assist in communication with patients and families. I recognize how difficult this waiting period can be for our patients and families, and that staff and physicians will continue to have challenging conversations as services are increased over time in a gradual and measured way. Look for those updates and resources coming soon.

Our expansion plans and the conditions required to maintain service levels will be monitored and reviewed on a weekly basis. This will involve testing, modeling and evaluating the impact of service expansion as we proceed.

The pandemic has demanded a more nimble and cooperative approach at all levels. I am truly proud of the new and innovative ways that our teams are performing their roles, which in many cases meant a shift from regular work. LHSC continues to provide compassionate and excellent care with innovations taking a leap forward such as drastically expanding access to virtual care visits. Thank you for your continued leadership and we will continue to count on you in the weeks and months ahead.

Dr. Paul Woods
President & CEO