

REACH Niagara Provider Meeting Minutes

Jan. 24, 2022

1. PPE is now at all shelters and on the mobile clinic:
 - gowns - disposable and cloth. The cloth gowns are quite comfortable. If you want to use cloth gowns I'll get them to you. The idea is to use it for a clinic, then take it home and wash, bring it to your next clinic. Let me know if you want a cloth gown.
 - N95 masks - the 1870+ model which does not require mask-fitting
 - goggles - currently felt to be better than shields. The ones we have are comfortable but distort vision a bit. Better ones are on order; meantime if you have your own, please bring it.
 - gloves

I have been wearing gown/N95/goggles for all patients. Screening for symptoms has been unreliable - frequently they screen negative then later tell me they have symptoms.

2. we have COVID rapid tests: a kit of 25 tests is at Southridge clinic. The other 25 are intended for the mobile unit but they can't be frozen and the heater on the mobile unit is unreliable. I'm open for suggestions for how make this available on the MHC but for now I'm bringing them into clinics with me and taking them home at night.
3. We're working on a plan to administer COVID booster vaccines from the Mobile Clinic. Plans are still unfolding; our current plan has us starting Jan 31, and ending Feb 24. There will be some interruption of primary care at some sites, for 1-2 weeks at a time. I'll share more when I have news; those of you who will be vaccinating have heard about this already (or will soon).
4. We just got lab supplies for urine C/S, paps, GC and chlamydia swabs. I'll be distributing these to the various sites in the coming week. These need to be dropped off at the Lifeless Schmon Parkway site. If the front door is locked, they will be accepted at the back door. The site is open until 7pm. Specimens need to be in a plastic bag, sticky label on each container and a requisition.
5. 2 new MD's will be starting between now and Mar 1. I'll introduce them at a future meeting.
6. Once all our providers are oriented and working regularly, I'm thinking our Monday meeting will become less necessary. I'd like to know how much interest there is in a half-day retreat once a year or twice a year. This could include a business meeting, some meet/greet time, and some education. One proposed topic: how users access, prepare, and use drugs, followed by: teaching people to use clean and safe "works" to do this. We'll be getting some safe equipment to distribute- spoons, needles, filters etc.

Next meeting Feb 21 - NOTE **no meeting Feb 7.**