

Letter from the President & CEO



Eric Vandewall



Community Partners and Leaders,

This week, hospitals across the region began to gradually resume programs and services that were paused in the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to share that Joseph Brant Hospital has received regional approval to proceed with our principled plan to reintegrate scheduled surgical and out-patient clinical care for patients waiting for treatment.

This approval was contingent upon meeting conditions set by the Ontario government, including maintaining bed capacity for a potential surge in COVID-19 patients, a mandated inventory of personal protective equipment, and physical distancing in patient areas.

With these conditions met, surgeries and diagnostic imaging are now resuming at JBH on a non-urgent basis, and other programs and services will be phased in over the coming weeks and months.

Reintroducing scheduled surgeries and clinical services will take time, as we must prioritize patients with the most critical and urgent health needs. Patients awaiting care will be contacted directly by their clinic or their doctor to re-schedule these services and related appointments.

COVID-19 will continue to shape our daily lives, including how health care is delivered now and for the foreseeable future. It was a catalyst for the transformation of our models of care, and we must embrace the opportunity to drive innovation in the redesign of our programs and services, with patients at the centre of every decision we make.

We have formed a Planning for the Future Steering Committee (PFSC) that will oversee this important work. I look forward to providing more updates on our plans as they proceed, and we will continue to update our website with the latest information.

We are so grateful for your support and patience in these challenging and unprecedented times. Our staff and physicians, who have sacrificed so much, are heartened by the tremendous gestures of thanks from our community. The pandemic has been devastating for many, but it has also brought our community together. This unbreakable bond will be a source of strength moving forward.