



New Tools Coming Across the Province for Care of COVID-19 Patients

SAINT JOHN, May 05, 2020: Remote patient monitoring systems and a hands-free CPR device are among the latest purchases approved by the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation and its *New Brunswick COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund*.

While personal restrictions have been loosened for New Brunswickers, hospitals across the province are still on high alert, taking ALL preventative measures necessary to keep everyone safe. To help our frontline staff, the *New Brunswick COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund* will see patients and healthcare professionals in five hospitals in the province benefit from donor giving.

The Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital, the Upper River Valley Hospital, The Moncton Hospital, the Miramichi Regional Hospital and the Saint John Regional Hospital are expected to have new technology installed in isolation rooms by the end of May. This system will allow for enhanced monitoring of and communication with patients by staff while minimizing the need to enter a room. In COVID-19 cases, this allows for close watch over a patient while minimizing the requirement for a doctor or nurse having to don PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) in order to enter the room.

“This will enhance existing patient monitoring capabilities and help optimize our Personal Protective Equipment use,” said Jennifer Sheils, Chief Information Officer with Horizon Health Network. “It will also mean improved communication with the patient, as this can now easily happen without the process of adding layers of protective gear.”

Another appreciated purchase for the COVID-19 area in the Saint John Regional Hospital is a LUCAS device. This device will perform chest compressions automatically, without the need of a person to physically administer CPR. The compressions are consistent and able to be continued without fatigue or interruption. In a COVID-19 scenario, this device allows chest compressions to occur while staff are not at risk of prolonged exposure.

“We have used this device many times in our hospital, to great effect,” said Dr. James French, lead of the COVID-19 emergency response in the Saint John Regional Hospital’s Emergency Department. “Having another allows it to be dedicated to our COVID-19 unit, for faster, contained use.”

“We are deploying our resources across the entire Province to help fight this pandemic,” said Jeff McAloon, CEO of the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation. “Whether that’s now, or during a second or third wave, we want to make sure our frontlines have the best resources at their disposal when they need them. The benefit of these purchases is they will not only help COVID-19 care, right now but, will be utilized extensively when the pandemic has subsided.”

Implementation of earlier purchases by the *New Brunswick COVID-19 Emergency Fund* of updated testing equipment for the province and ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) Life Support Systems are in progress.

“These added tools to our toolbox are critical, says Dr. French. “And they will remain in our toolbox for patient care long after COVID-19 has left New Brunswick.”

The approved purchase of the patient monitoring technology for five Horizon sites is \$257,600.

The approved purchase of the LUCAS chest compression device for the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation is \$17,000.

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