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Mr. Andrew Williams  
46 General Hospital Dr.  
Stratford, ON N5A 2Y6

Saturday, September 19, 2020

Dear Mr. Williams,

I've had time to review all the documentation you sent regarding the issue of your hospital refusing to offer life-sustaining dialysis treatment to my wife. I found nothing in what you sent that provides any evidence to support the effectiveness of face mask use. The content merely dictates a policy without any justification. There was nothing to support your statement that forcing masks on your clients is for "the safety of our Team and of all we serve..."

Indeed, as I've already demonstrated, every randomized trial with verified outcomes shows masks are ineffective in stopping viral infections and merely provide a false and costly sense of protection. Certainly, masks stop droplets, but not illness. At the same time, studies show masks increase primary and secondary bacterial infection.

Furthermore, ministry guidelines you sent did not even appear to give the hospital authority to require face masks with such a draconian and inflexible approach as Stratford General is using. In the "COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart" guidelines it states that policies such as masking should:

- "be based on balancing the need to mitigate risks to patients, staff and visitors, with the mental, physical and spiritual needs of patients for their quality of life."
- remain "adaptive and flexible" (as exemplified by London's dialysis)
- "respond to the local COVID-19 situation" (of which there is practically none)
- account for the "patient's circumstances"

It also states that "Where applicable, existing visitor policies regarding essential visitors should be revised..." Please revise based on the science and your facemask budget to more useful purposes.

For in no way do the guidelines say you should be forcing masks on patients or visitors. It only advises you to "reinforce that public health measures... be followed." Reinforce, according to the dictionary, means "strengthen or support" not "coerce and manipulate."

Furthermore, the guidelines you sent only recommend that "Signage should be posted at the entrance to the office/clinic and at reception areas requiring all patients and any

visitors to wear a face covering/non-medical mask (if available and tolerated)...” A sign, not a checkpoint. If tolerated, not unconditionally.

Thus your assertion that you are using an “approach for the control of COVID-19 that follows the Ministry of Health and the Public Health guidelines” is not supported by the guidelines you sent. Therefore, I respectfully request that you permit Nicole to return to dialysis at the Stratford clinic this Tuesday. The long drive to University Hospital, with only an evening shift available, is adding unneeded stress to someone in a critical condition, for which your hospital could be held liable.

There is no evidence that masks are of any value. They cause known and possible harms cited in Ministry, CDC and WHO documents. “Slowing down the spread” is hardly necessary in a county where we’ve had only five deaths attributed to COVID-19 (despite the first death having no respiratory distress) and only three active cases. Stratford General is hardly at risk of being overrun with pneumonia patients.

There is no scientific evidence, logic or legal justification for forced masking. Please allow Nicole to continue treatment at your hospital without the draconian measures and avoid this escalating to the attention of the Ministry of Health, the MPP, media, advocacy groups and the Human Rights Tribunal.

Sincerely,

John C. A. Manley