

Ontario Health Team – Update #7

On September 18, 2020, the Kawartha Lakes Ontario Health Team submitted its [Full Application](#), one of the 17 provincially chosen OHTs invited to submit in July. The KL-OHT will learn whether it is an approved OHT by October 19, pending any unanticipated delays associated with COVID-19. Highlights of the KL-OHT's submission include the priority initiatives listed below.

KL-OHT continues its momentum through the OHT evolution with client/patient representatives who are at the table collaborating as we transform care. If you are interested in being a client/patient representative, please contact KL-OHT through the website at <https://kawarthalakesoht.ca/>.

Priority Initiatives

- i. **Care Navigation.** We will pilot test a redesigned navigation function geared to our Year 1 Population. The goal is to break down existing siloes across all care sectors including transitioning Home and Community Care to the KL-OHT.
- ii. **Reduce Wait Time for Primary Care Providers.** We will explore mechanisms to expand collaboration across our primary care provider groups in order to reduce wait times for those needing a primary care provider.
- iii. **COVID-19 Assessment Centre.** We will secure a sustainable location as the hub for COVID-19 testing and assessment and evolve the spokes in reaction to our community's pandemic needs. As COVID-19 testing methodologies rapidly evolve, we anticipate greater opportunity for all partners to play a role in ensuring testing and assessment is accessible and reliable throughout our region.
- iv. **Community Paramedicine Program.** We will identify sustainable funding and expand the reach of this innovative program which conducts proactive, scheduled home visits and wellness assessments to high needs patients following discharge until such time that the patient regains their ability to safely and independently remain at home or until community supports are accessed and in place.
- v. **Patient Access to their Digital Health.** We will expand the use of existing digital platforms to assist the public in navigating the health system to meet their needs. For example, implement patient portals of existing platforms as well as collect all resources in a single page on the KL-OHT website.

Next Steps

- a. Continue to evolve the priority initiatives.
- b. Prepare for safe community engagement sessions amidst the ongoing pandemic.
- c. Respond to the Ministry's next steps.

KL-OHT Committees and Working Groups are working tenaciously towards **connecting local care**. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Kawartha Lakes OHT!