# SIMULATION COVID-19 ACTIVITY

## Trained Staff & Physicians Using Simulation

Recognizing the immediate and immense need to support our clinical colleagues in caring for our patients, the Simulation Program created centralized training courses to support staff in developing competence and confidence while working during the pandemic.

**1200+**

Staff & physicians trained in our COVID-19 courses from 2020-2021

### COVID-19 courses include:

- Code Blue Special
- Operating Room Personal Protective Equipment Training
- COVID Basic Life Support Refresher
- Aerosol generating medical procedure (AGMP) Personal Protective Equipment

## Informed COVID-19 Testing & Vaccine Clinic Design

The Simulation Program was integral to Unity Health Toronto's ability to design, test, and launch new clinical spaces in response to the pandemic. In March 2020 our Simulation Program used rapid-cycle simulations over two days to support the opening of the St. Michael's COVID-19 Assessment Centre (CAC). The Simulation Program was also there to support the design and testing of all three vaccine clinics across Unity Health Toronto from December 2020-January 2021. Running simulations determined the right equipment, personnel, and workflow, to allow leadership to make efficient and timely decisions and open the clinics in record time.

Starting with a tape and cardboard mockup of the proposed space, the Simulation Program took our colleagues through simulations that became more and more realistic over time, which allowed us to identify any points of confusion in the process. This occurred in tandem with the clinics being set-up.

**200+**

Stakeholders engaged to design and test St. Michael's COVID-19 Assessment Centre and all three site-specific vaccine clinics.

## Supported COVID-19 Policy Creation

Unity Health Toronto's Simulation Program and the Emergency Department ran the first COVID-19 in-situ simulation in the city in January 2020 to determine the best way to transport COVID-19 positive, or suspected positive patients, at St. Michael's Hospital. Within the next 30 days, the Simulation team would end up running more than 20 in-situ simulations to help inform guidelines and policies being created. The Simulation Program directly informed the development of five major guidelines.

### Guidelines:

1. Transferring of COVID-19 Positive or Persons Under Investigation
2. Code Blue Protocol during COVID-19 Pandemic
3. Intubation Guidelines
4. Transfer of Deceased Persons
5. Aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMP) cognitive aids

## Collaborated on Development of a New Practice Model

Unity Health Toronto recognized that we would have to adapt to continue to provide excellent care for our patients in the pandemic. We prepared to change our model of care to a Pods model whereby clinicians were grouped together to provide care to a cluster of patients. The typical process of implementing a new practice change takes months and was not an option amid the rapidly evolving COVID-19 crisis.

Without the luxury of time, the use of tabletop simulations provided the key, allowing participants to think and talk through realistic scenarios. Within a week, the Simulation team led interprofessional groups of front-line clinicians, educators, and practice leaders through a series of tabletops simulations to design, test, and re-test processes, policies, and guidelines. Using simulation allowed clinical leadership to test the model and revise it multiple times before putting it into practice.

## COVID-19 Scholarship Activity

### Publications:


- Brydges, R., Campbell, D. M., Beavers, L., Khodadoust, N., Iantomasi, P., Sampson, K., Goffi, A., Caparica Santos, F. N., Petrosoniak, A. (2020). Lessons Learned in Preparing for and Responding to the Early Stages of the COVID19 Pandemic: One Simulation's Program Experience Adapting to the New Normal. Advances in Simulation (London), 6(3), 5 8.


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