



## Board of Health

### Executive Committee Meeting, via *GoToMeeting*

Thursday, August 20, 2020

The meeting of the Executive Committee of Renfrew County and District Health Unit's Board of Health was held via *GoToMeeting*, RCDHU's videoconferencing platform. All Members were available by video.

#### **Present:**

Peter Emon	Chair
M. Ann Aikens	Member
J. Michael du Manoir	Member
Christine Reavie	Member
Janice Visneskie Moore	Member

#### **Staff:**

Marilyn Halko	Executive Assistant (Secretary)
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#### **01. Call to Order**

P. Emon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **02. Agenda Approval**

The agenda was approved as presented.

#### **Resolution: # 1 EC 2020-Aug-20**

A motion by J. Visneskie Moore; seconded by M. A. Aikens; be it resolved that the Executive Committee approve the agenda, as presented.

Carried

#### **03. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **04. Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**05. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Approval)**

- a. Approval of the meeting minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday, July 23, 2020, as amended.

Amend by including the following information under 01 b.—Staff Report

*A recommendation that the information in the Acting Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board—May 26, 2020, be updated and presented at the Regular Board meeting scheduled for September 29, 2020.*

*It was further recommended when staff are presenting financial reports and assorted ministry reports to committee or board that the reporting be generated with content and structure from other reports already existing. Extracting the information from those documents, sharing sections in the body of the report, rather than develop new reporting tools.*

**Resolution: # 2 EC 2020-Aug-20**

A motion by C. Reavie; seconded by; be it resolved that the Executive Committee approve the meeting minutes for Thursday, July 23, 2020, as amended.

Carried

At. 10:15 a.m., Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon and Karen Simpson joined the GoToMeeting.

**06. Business Arising**

- a. Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre—presentation—A Health Partners Collaborative  
Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) is a unique 24/7 health care service, available to the residents of Renfrew County and District.

The following information—A *Health Partners Collaborative*—was presented to the Committee by: Dr. Jonathan Fitzsimon, Clinical Coordinator, RC VTAC, Family Physician and Chief of Medicine, Arnprior and District Hospital; Karen Simpson, Executive Director, Arnprior and District Family Health Team; and Eric Hanna, President and Chief Executive Officer, Arnprior Regional Health.

The PowerPoint presentation is linked here—[A Health Partners Collaboration](#).

Slide One

**RENFREW COUNTY VIRTUAL TRIAGE AND ASSESSMENT  
CENTRE (RC VTAC)  
A HEALTH PARTNERS COLLABORATIVE**



**Slide Two—RC VTAC Partners**

RC VTAC provides healthcare services to residents of Renfrew County and District 24/7 because of the collaborative efforts of these healthcare partners:



### Slide Three—RC VTAC Background:

- Hospitals, Public Health, Paramedics and Primary Care sites in Renfrew County, supported by Ontario Health East, funded by the Province of Ontario collaborated to establish a Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre for Renfrew County.
- The County of Renfrew, like municipalities across Eastern Ontario are challenged by geography and distributed population settlement patterns. The Township of South Algonquin, in the District of Nipissing has been included in the scope of RC VTAC service delivery.
- This model of a Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre has been developed to meet the challenges of this unique sub-urban and rural geography with an aim of addressing the needs related to assessment and testing for COVID-19, reducing the incidence of unnecessary/or avoidable presentation to local hospitals, particularly for individuals without a family doctor or who cannot access their family doctor, reducing 911 Paramedic Service utilization and reduced Paramedic transportation of persons to hospital and to.

### Slide Four—RC VTAC Purpose:

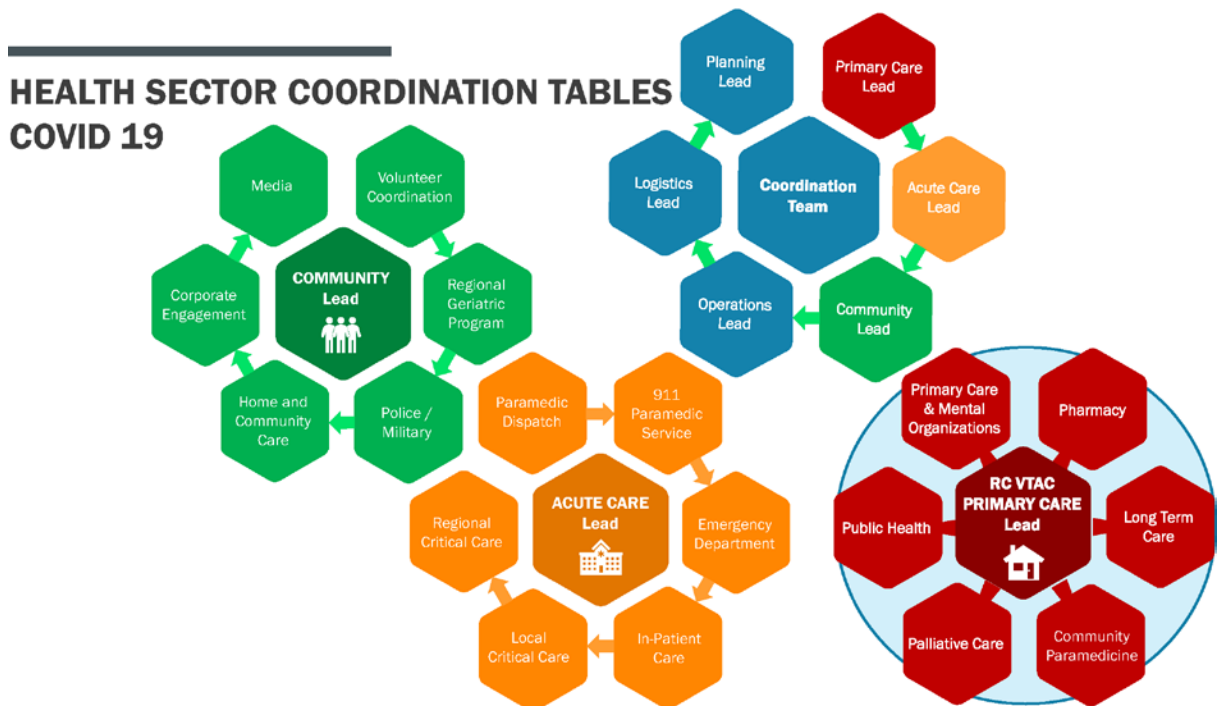
How it currently works: Where a resident of Renfrew County does not have a primary care provider (i.e., unattached patient) or is unable to reach their primary health care provider RC VTAC has:

1. Established a “virtual centre” promoting the use of a “one number to call” for **virtual triage**, assessment and treatment options from health care practitioners and support staff. Service is available 24/7.
2. Serves residents of Renfrew County and South Algonquin who have acute/episodic primary care needs so that they can be assessed and guided on how to best receive care dependent on their needs. It does not replace the need for individuals to have a primary care physician to meet all their health care needs.
3. Placed a special emphasis on supporting persons exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, attached and unattached to a primary care provider, with the goal of safely managing their care needs in the community, triaging their acuity and managing a range of care needs and options.

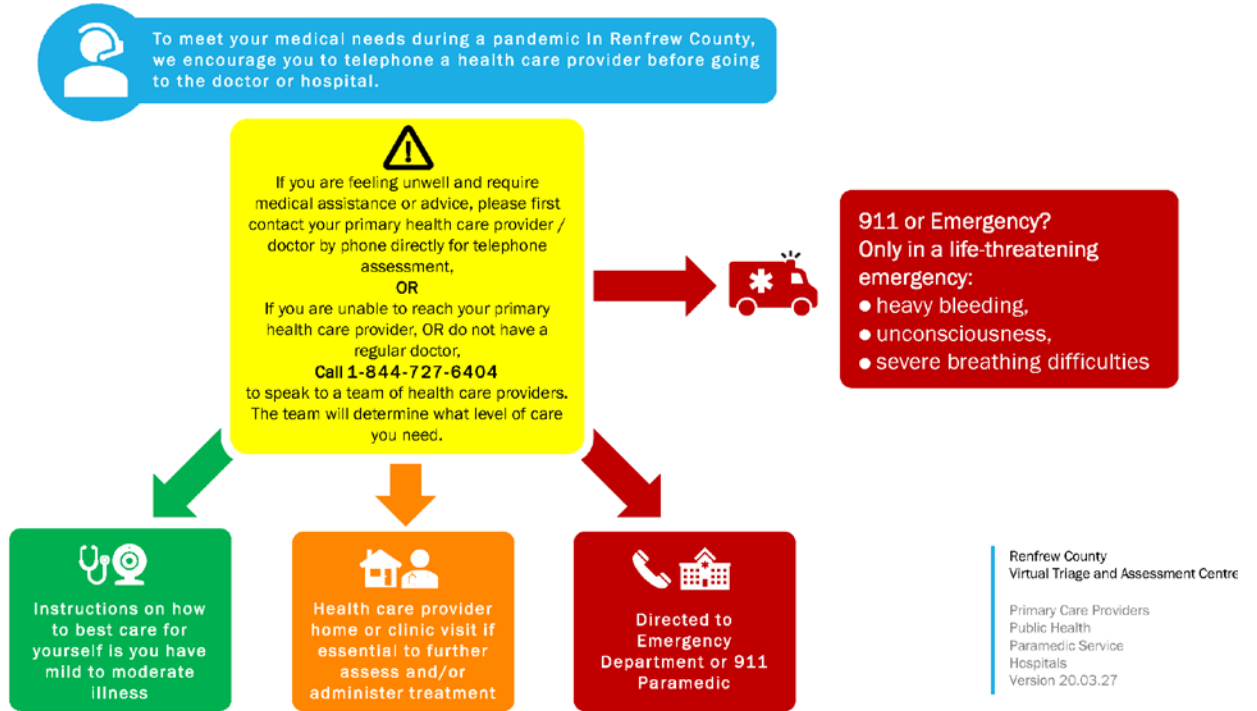
**Slide Five—RC VTAC provides the means for Primary Care Physicians and Community Paramedics to assess patients using the following modalities:**

- Patient registration, system navigation and COVID testing requisitions prepared over the phone.
- Phone and/or video visit with patient with a Primary Care Physician and family health team support.
- In-home assessment and diagnostic testing completed by Community Paramedics for patients who require further interventions and / or ongoing monitoring.
- Remote monitoring and alerting may be established by Community Paramedics for patients who require additional supports to safely remain in the home. Physician support and consultation provided, as needed, for patients being remote monitored.
- Referrals may be made to the Acute Primary Care Service of the RC VTAC, Public Health or other community agency as required ie Family Health Team, Mental Health services, 211, Nurse Practitioners, Regional Geriatric Program & Palliative Care Team integration.
- Provide a barrier free solution that ensures timely access to acute/episodic primary care for all residents of Renfrew County. This service also provides 24/7 consultation between primary care physicians and paramedics to provide appropriate patients better care options at home.
- Minimizes the use of PPE or swabs in traditional settings such as a static assessment centre while still providing hands on care, assessment and continuous remote monitoring where warranted.

**Slide Six—Health Sector Coordination Tables—COVID-19**

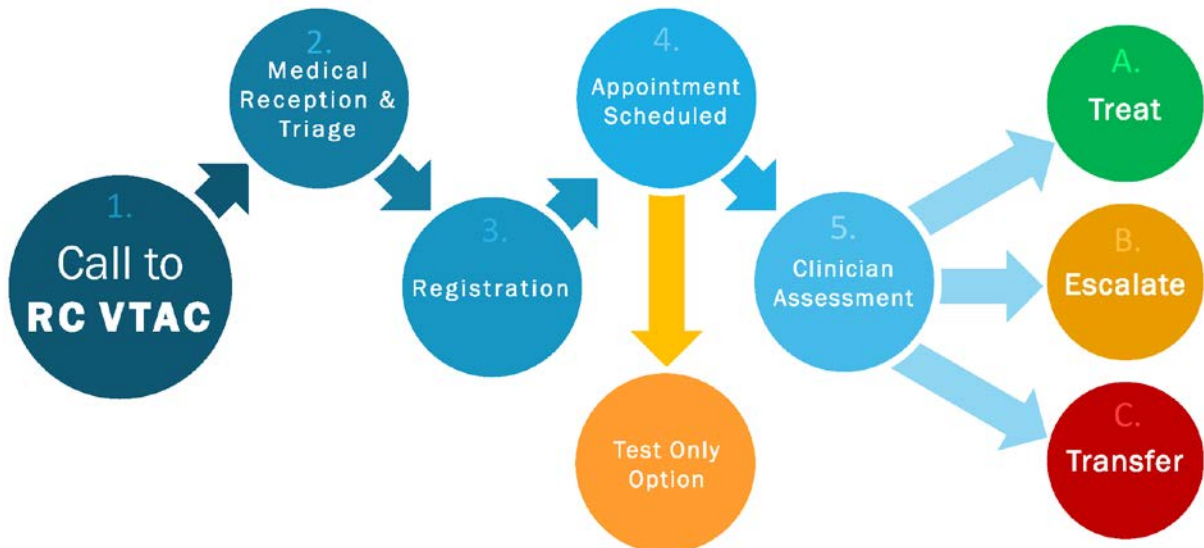


## Slide Seven—RC VTAC—Flow Chart for Care



Eric Hanna joined the GoToMeeting.

## Slide Eight—RC VTAC Patient Flow



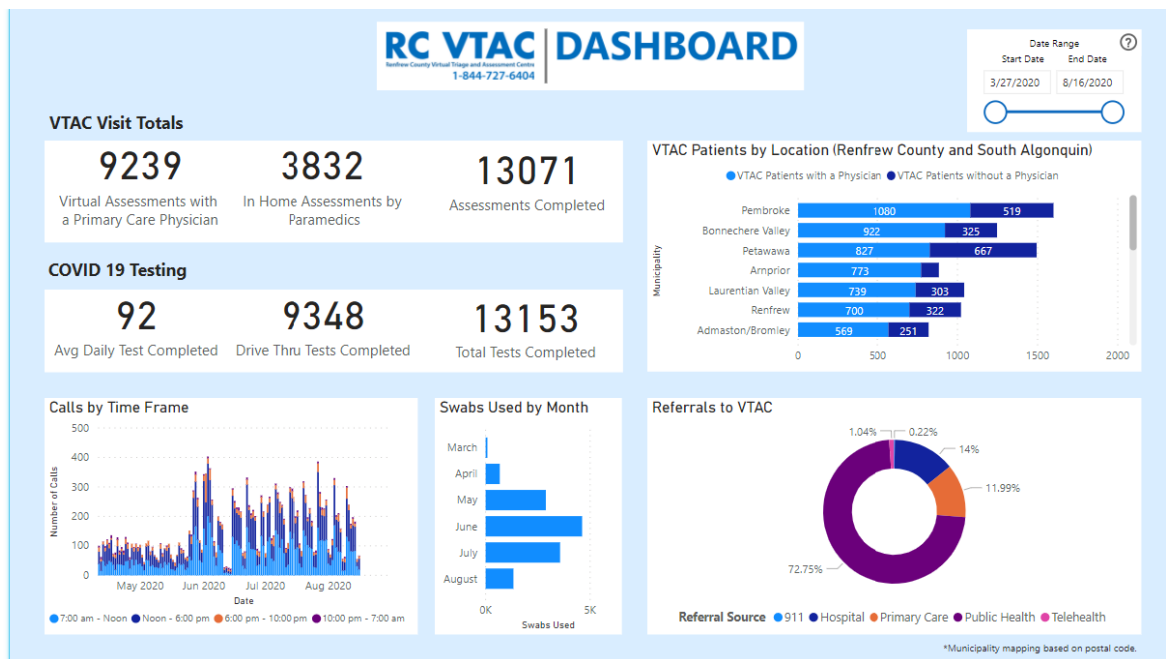
## Slide Nine—RC VTAC key design components

- Medical Secretaries - Triage / Registration (paid hourly rate through Assessment Centre funding)
- Primary Care Physicians - Clinical Management / Referring Physician (Sessional Fee OHIP Payment)
- Community Paramedics - Clinical Assessment, Swabbing, Testing, Remote Monitoring, Consultation
- Family Health Team Professionals / Community Agencies provide support as requested by the Physician

All services are provided remotely or through mobile in-community to support a scalable, nimble and distributed model of care that is barrier free.

K. Simpson elaborated on the Dashboard located on the RC VTAC website <https://rcvtac.ca/>.

## Slide Ten—RC VTAC Dashboard



The presenters answered the Committee's questions.

K. Simpson explained there is a scroll down at the far side of the *VTAC Patient by Location (Renfrew County and South Algonquin)* that identifies more communities e. g. Deep River, not visible on Slide Ten.

In addition, this article about RC VTAC was included in the meeting materials—[Providing 24/7 healthcare for all during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The document was published in 2020 by The College of Physicians of Canada.

- b. **School Reopening**  
Renfrew County and District Health Unit has been working collaboratively with education partners in Renfrew County and District to reopen schools safely for the upcoming school year. Recommendations continue to evolve and change every day.

Dr. Cushman said that RCDHU needs to dampen down on COVID-19 pop-up sites and concentrate on school openings.

RCDHU will assign nurses to schools throughout Renfrew County and District.

Residents of Renfrew County and District need to continue to use the following COVID-19 preventative measures by:

- wearing a mask or face covering while in an enclosed public space or when a two metre distance cannot be maintained, with those outside a person's social circle
- washing hands frequently
- practicing physical distancing, staying two metres apart even in gatherings.

RCDHU will need the help of municipalities to get the message out, through marketing, about continued vigilance.

## **07. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **08. Staff Reports**

There were no staff reports.

## **09. Board Committee Reports**

There were no Board Committee Reports.

## **10. By-Laws**

There were no by-laws.

## **11. New Business**

- a. **Consultation with Ottawa Public Health**  
It was recommended that Chair Janice Visneskie Moore write a letter to Chair Keith Egli to resume communication with Ottawa Public Health



(OPH) regarding Public Health Modernization.

Meetings with OPH were put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board authorized Chair Visneskie Moore, Vice Chair Aikens and Executive Committee Chair Emon to act on behalf of the Board and connect with OPH Board Members.

It is anticipated that meetings will be held on a virtual platform.

**12. Notice of Motion**

There was no notice of motion.

**13. Closed**

There was no closed meeting.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

**15. Adjournment**

**Resolution: # 4 EC 2020-Aug-20**

A motion by C. Reavie; seconded by J. Visneskie Moore; be it resolved that the Executive Committee adjourn at 11:28 a.m.

Carried

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

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Chair

*The meeting minutes were approved by the Committee at the 2020-Oct-20 Executive Committee meeting.*