



Kids come first– Fall 2020

Kids come first health team update

With summer vacation plans in the rear-view mirror, the return to school and anticipation of the work ahead, September often feels like the start of a new year. This September past was certainly one that we won't soon forget. The Kids Come First /Les enfants avant tout Health Team has continued to collaborate and respond to the needs of children, youth and their families through CoVID-19. We are pleased to share updates on excellent work that many of the Kids Come First partners have been involved in.

New Member News!

Welcome to 360 Concussion Care!

The newest member of the Kids Come First Health Team is 360 Concussion Care, a network of research-based clinics led by globally recognized concussion experts helping kids recover from concussion, safer and faster.

Patients receive an individualized treatment plan, developed and managed by an interdisciplinary team of physicians, physiotherapists, psychologists, and mental health and rehabilitation specialists, and a personal coach to support them every step of the way.

360 Concussion Care maintains a world-leading concussion registry, advancing research, best practices and knowledge sharing. They are transforming concussion care and driving treatment innovation around the globe.

Visit the Concussion Care website. 613-668-0360. 2451 Riverside Dr. Ottawa, ON K1H 7X7

Game-Changer for Child and Youth Mental Health

RBC Royal Bank supports the Kids Come First Health Team

The Kids Come First Health Team's vision of fast, simple access to care took a giant step forward on October 6 when RBC Royal Bank presented \$1.5 million to CHEO support the creation of a single point of entry to mental health and addictions services. One Call/One click will improve access to youth mental health care across the region. This is the biggest donation in our region's history for child and youth mental health.

"Kids and teens in our region are waiting too long for mental health and addiction services, and some of that is because it is difficult to know how to access the service right for them," explained Joanne Lowe, Executive Director of Youth Services Bureau and Vice-president of Mental Health and Addictions at CHEO. "When this happens, children and youth repeatedly visit emergency departments or access services that might not be the right fit. This can lead to poor outcomes. We are so grateful to RBC Royal Bank for helping us improve this situation to get kids and teens the care they need, when they need it."

Francophone Health Service Improvements

The Provincial Government's Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care, 2015, was focused almost exclusively on adult care, but evidence across the province suggests that there is a significant need for focused strategies to better address unmet needs, as well as the changing health issues affecting children and youth.

In 2016, hundreds of children, youth, families and providers came together to produce THRIVE, Canada's first-ever pediatric health services capacity plan. THRIVE outlines the child and youth population's current health needs against a poorly navigable system of fragmented service silos, gaps in access and quality, and challenges with transition.

To supplement the regional THRIVE plan, the Kids Come First Health Team made it a priority to address the needs of the underrepresented francophone children and youth by developing population-specific strategies, led by the francophone community. Le CAP and Valoris, two leading family and youth service centres, are co-leading a Kids Come First Francophone Working Group focussed on francophone child and youth health services.

Through the leadership of the Kids Come First Francophone Working Group and a Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between Le Cap (on behalf of the Francophone Working Group) and CHEO, the goals of the needs analysis are to:

- Develop a clear understanding of the needs and priorities of francophone children, youth and their families – now and in the future
- Understand current provider capacity for delivering services in French
- Develop a gap analysis if capacity does not meet current and future needs
- Develop tools that begin to address francophone data analysis
- The above will serve to inform the future development of a service model that matches the needs of francophone children, youth and families in the Champlain region

"The work being done by the Kids Come First Francophone Working Group will be instrumental to better understand the needs of francophone children and youth in the Champlain area." Says H el ene Fournier, Executive Director at Valoris, "This is an essential initiative that will assist our team to plan services for children and youth and ensure we address the need of the francophone in the Champlain region."

"We recognize that inter-agency and inter-regional collaboration is crucial to ensure the general well-being and mental health of all young Francophones in Eastern Ontario," says Guy Bouchard from Le Cap.

Back-to-School Guidance

A virtual back-to-school backpack

In September, the Kids Come First Health Team came together to support kids, parents, school boards, teachers and other health-care professionals with their questions and concerns about returning to school during CoVID-19. These resources are now in a single location to make it easy for everyone to find the information they need.



View the Virtual Back-to-school Backpack.

Resources include:

- Back to School during CoVID-19: tips for parents and caregivers
- Back to school recommendations for children with special needs
- Recordings of the Virtual Town Halls held on September 1st and 2nd for families/caregivers of children with medically complex needs



CANImmunize

CANImmunize provides parents/caregivers with an integrated digital immunization record. Parents of newborns can use CANImmunize to receive recall reminders when their vaccination appointments are approaching or overdue, which is a proven strategy to improve on-time vaccination rates.

By linking the parental record with local public health through CANImmunize, we will improve surveillance of immunization rates for children 0- 4 years old (prior to school entry) which is key to preventing costly disease outbreaks. For parents/caregivers of school-aged children, access to their official immunization record in CANImmunize helps improve awareness of their children's status against the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) ahead of suspension season. This will allow them time to receive the necessary immunizations to attend school.

Questions?

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact Jen Proulx Director, Integrated Care Delivery: jproulx@cheo.on.ca

Thank you for your ongoing support of Kids Come First