

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Dear [NAME],

I hope everyone is staying healthy during this very tough autumn as the number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations continue to rise.

Thanks to our generous donors, the hospital has steadily expanded its COVID-19 testing, with more than 7,000 tests administered during the week of October 19, and continues to hire and train staff to increase its capacity. COVID-19 tests are now available [by appointment only](#) at our Assessment Centre at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute.

Meanwhile, St. Michael's scientists are at the forefront of global COVID-19 research. One notable study, the Action to Beat Coronavirus (Ab-C), is being led by Dr. Prabhat Jha, an epidemiologist and director of the Centre for Global Health Research. This large-scale research study is looking for COVID-19 antibodies in blood samples to detect past infection and determine how long immunity lasts. See the News section for more on St. Michael's game-changing research.

I hope you caught our annual Louis L. Odette Lecture last month. It featured Dr. Jim Withers, the pioneer of the global street medicine movement, who spoke about his work providing mental health care to those experiencing homelessness. A follow-up discussion was led by St. Michael's chief of psychiatry, Dr. Tom Ungar. If you missed it, you can watch it [here](#).

And coming up next month is an event for expecting mothers and their families, which spotlights the work of our wonderful NICU and Maternal Care Unit and the [Pandemic Pregnancy Guide](#), created by two St. Michael's physician moms.

Finally, I am very excited to announce St. Michael's first-ever gift guide, with gifts for everyone on your holiday list. The *Life-Changing Gifts* catalogue will be available in print and online next week, and if you place your order before December 4, we'll mail your loved one a free greeting card. See below for details.

As always, on behalf of everyone at the Foundation, thank you for your support of St. Michael's Hospital. We couldn't accomplish any of these things without you, and we are grateful.

I wish you all a safe and happy Halloween. And don't forget to get your flu shot!

Yours sincerely,

Lili

Lili Litwin

President, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation

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HOW TO KEEP SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN



Disappointment is haunting this year's Halloween festivities as provincial health authorities have advised against trick or treating in Toronto, Peel, York Region and Ottawa. But there are other fun things for kids and families to do this Halloween, like a super scary scavenger hunt. Here's a guide to some of them.

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LIFE-CHANGING GIFTS



If you're looking for meaningful, contact-free holiday gifts this year, you can find them in St. Michael's first-ever gift guide, which debuts next week. *Life-Changing Gifts* is a catalogue of vitally needed items for the hospital – lab supplies for COVID-19 researchers, books for young patients, meals for frontline workers, a baby blanket warmer for the NICU, a backpack full of necessities for vulnerable patients – that you can purchase on behalf of everyone on your holiday list. And if you order before December 4, we'll mail a free greeting card with each gift. The print catalogue will be mailed to donors in the next few days, and the online version, which includes eight extra items, will be available next week. Happy holiday shopping!

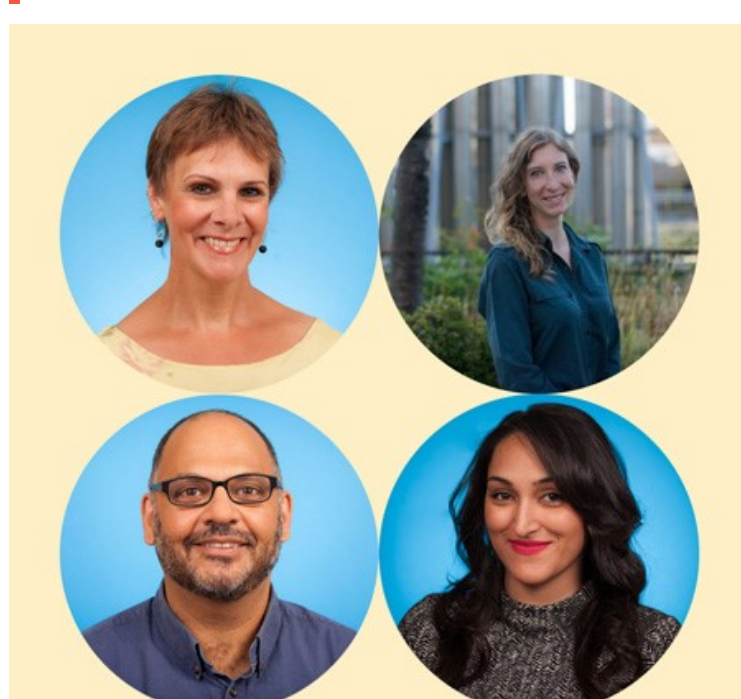


Managing the Pandemic

The second wave just might be as challenging as the first. We've asked Dr. Matthew Muller, Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control at St. Michael's, for his views on staying safe through the winter and an update on the hospital's response.

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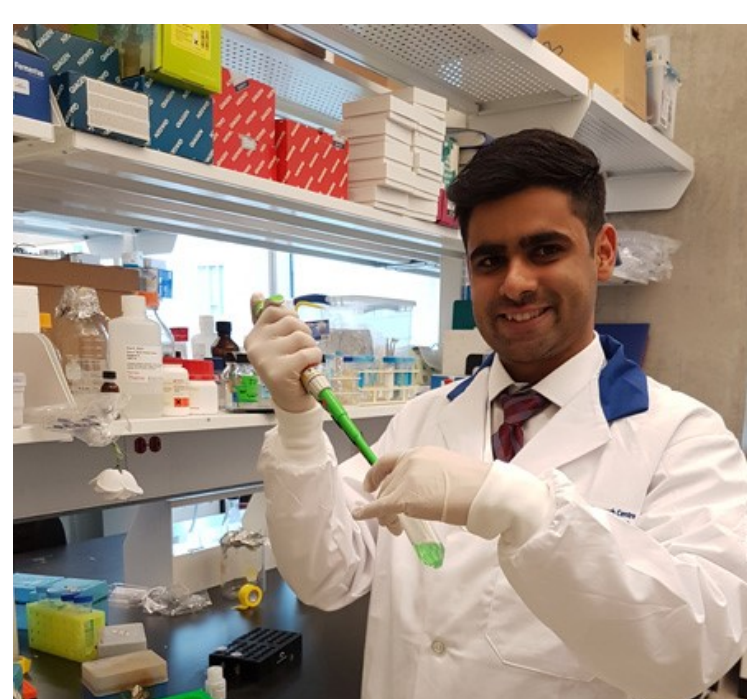
IN THE NEWS



COVID-19's Impact on Mental Health Care

Four St. Michael's researchers researching mental health issues during the pandemic – Dr. Flora Matheson, Dr. Ahmed Bayoumi, Dr. Samantha Young and Dr. Sakina Rizvi – have received funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for projects that study the impact of COVID-19 on people with mental health-care needs, substance use issues or suicidal thoughts.

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A Collective Effort to Help Vulnerable Patients

Dr Sahil Gupta, a physician in St. Michael's Emergency Department, explains how a collaboration between Emergency Department leadership, inpatient teams, public health, community agencies and lab services has led to improved care and services for those experiencing homelessness and marginalization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Contact Tracing Could Keep More Businesses Open

For fewer businesses to close, three things have to happen according to Dr. Irfan Dhalla, VP of Physician Quality at St. Michael's and Unity Health Toronto. The first is a more targeted approach to virus transmission control. The second is more emphasis on contact tracing. Lastly, we need better isolation measures and more inspectors to enforce them.

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Getting the Flu Shot During COVID-19

According to Dr. Tara Kiran, it's tough to provide the flu shot to everyone who wants or needs it during COVID-19. But there might be solutions – like drive-in flu shot clinics, weekend appointments and prioritizing patients who can't access it from other sources.

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STAY UPDATED

Follow our social channels ([@stmichaelsfdn](#)) and visit our [COVID-19 information page](#) and [unityhealth.to](#) for regular updates on how St. Michael's is responding to COVID-19.

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