

BBOHT BUZZ

THE OFFICIAL BRANTFORD BRANT OHT NEWSLETTER



DIGITAL HEALTH SURVEYS

The BBOHT Digital Health Team is excited to continue their expansion of the OCEAN eReferral program in the new year. John Stoneman, Digital Health Lead will be sending out a brief survey and informational brochure to Brantford and Brant County health care providers to gauge their interest in the eReferral program. This survey will explore each provider's needs, how they intend to use the program

and how they could benefit from more education on the initiative. This survey will also help to explore if offices feel they could use the BBOHT Digital Health team to mediate the transition and help with any growing pains during the process.

The implementation and adoption of OCEAN eReferral is led by the eHealth Centre of Excellence (eCE), and the program is 100% funded by the Ministry of Health so the BBOHT hopes that local health care providers will take advantage of this technology.

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BRANTFORD BRANT
ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM



COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRE CHANGES

In response to the growing number of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infections in our area, additional physician hours are being added at The Brantford COVID-19 Assessment Centre to support both adult and pediatric patients 8am-4pm, seven days per week. This is an enhancement of the previous pediatric hours of 1-4PM and will provide a safe option for symptomatic patients who may require support. Resources created by the BBOHT in partnership with BCHS and the Brantford Brant Primary Care Council have been distributed to help both primary care offices and staff at BCHS Emergency Rooms to determine appropriate referrals to the centre. Primary Care and BCHS staff will be able to directly book same or next day appointments for symptomatic patients with COVID concerns at the Assessment Centre. This will hopefully alleviate some of the pressure on our local ED and allow peace of mind for COVID positive patients.

The goal of the Assessment Centre is to have an on-site physician seven days per week, 8am-4pm as long as staff is available. The Assessment Centre physician will determine if a COVID-19 rapid test or PCR test is necessary for the patient, or if escalated care or referral to ED is required. The Assessment Centre physician will provide notes to primary care providers so that there is no gap in care for the patient.





PROJECT COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT

Hello! My name is Janine Noorloos and I am the Mental Health & Addictions Project Coordinator for the Brantford Brant OHT (BBOHT). I have been a part of the BBOHT since August 2021 and I am loving it! One of my favourite aspects of this role is that I am involved with so many initiatives in our local community. For example, I can attend meetings with the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinic, Brantford Downtown Outreach Team, and even housing services. Currently, I am focusing my efforts on our Mental Health & Addictions data strategy, and strategic planning going forward. Understanding the numbers behind everything helps me to see how our health system is performing overall. While there have been many barriers with COVID-19, working with such a great team makes difficult times worthwhile.

SHELTER HEALTH REFERRAL FORM NOW ACTIVE

Persons experiencing homelessness in Brantford can now receive primary care at seven local shelter health clinics as part of an enhanced outreach program. A standardized referral form, created by the BBOHT & community partners, is now being used in the Brantford General Hospital (BGH) Emergency Department (ED). Individuals who are homeless that present to the BGH ED can now be referred to the Grand River Community Health Centre (GRCHC) Shelter Health program by using the referral form located on the ED computers or on the GRCHC website [here](#).

This primary care outreach team aims to provide health care to people who are homeless or precariously housed and have no family doctor.



Rosewood House Clinic, one of seven local shelters using the GRCHC Referral Form

Photo by Christina Manocchio