

# Engaging and Supporting Caregivers during COVID-19

Throughout Stroke Awareness Month, we will be sharing resources for care providers as well as spotlight the creative strategies being used to continue delivering high-quality stroke care during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Stay tuned each week and continue to send in your highlights to: [service@corhealthontario.ca](mailto:service@corhealthontario.ca)



## WHAT'S NEW: CORHEALTH COVID-19 STROKE MEMO #3



The Stroke healthcare community is committed to engaging and collaborating with patients and caregivers to adapt to this new reality, and to ensuring the best possible care for people living with stroke, whether they are at home, at a healthcare facility, or transitioning back to home after a hospital stay. Click the following to view: [CorHealth COVID-19 Stroke Memo #3 - Recommendations for a Provincial Approach to Engage & Support Caregivers for Persons with Stroke During COVID-19](#). The memo can also be found on [www.corhealthontario.ca/covid19](http://www.corhealthontario.ca/covid19).

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: ADAPTING QUALITY STROKE CARE TO COVID-19

*"I am so glad that support for caregivers during this very difficult time is available. Caregivers often have a double role to play, especially during this pandemic. They become teachers, counsellors, problem solvers, therapists, etc. - a person that the whole family depends on, including the survivor."* SUBMITTED BY A CAREGIVER OF A PERSON WITH STROKE

"We [Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists] connected with the patient's family virtually using a video conference call and were able to demonstrate the patient's functional status (stairs, transfers and ambulation) and review safety recommendations."

SHANNON MOSHER  
PHYSIOTHERAPIST,  
BROCKVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL

"Stroke Support Group Facilitators have leveraged Zoom for persons with stroke and caregivers as well as for groups of adults with aphasia where the whiteboard option can be used. These meetings, organized by Community Support Services, provide an opportunity for individuals to reconnect socially in a virtual environment."

CALLY MARTIN  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR,  
SOUTHEASTERN ONTARIO  
REGIONAL STROKE NETWORK

"Team members within all our hospitals quickly implemented a variety of virtual communication platforms including tablets and phones to ensure families could connect with their loved ones in hospital. These virtual visits have occurred with families at home, in hospital parking lots, from across the country and around the world. Being in hospital is a stressful time for stroke survivors, and connecting with family members, even if only virtually, is a huge benefit for survivors, their families and caregivers."

DOUG BICKFORD  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR,  
SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO  
REGIONAL STROKE NETWORK

## Be Inspired by the Power of Hope

Watch Keri Smith's story, the second of four inspirational videos in the Royal Victoria Health Centre's Power of Hope series for #StrokeMonth: [youtu.be/90zIZoNACUY](https://youtu.be/90zIZoNACUY)



Unfortunately, people will continue to have strokes, even during a pandemic. Fortunately, our stroke stakeholders are dedicated to delivering high-quality stroke care. From all of us at CorHealth Ontario, a heartfelt thank you.

