



London Health
Sciences Centre



Children's Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre

Supervisor, Corporate Nursing Executive (CNE) and Chair, Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Report

June 2026

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Strategic and Operational Priorities

May Community Update Meeting

On May 20, 2026, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) hosted its monthly Community Update Meeting. The meeting provided updates on various topics including Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Transfusion Medicine, Practical Obstetric Multi-Professional Training (PROMPT), and LHSC's smoking cessation program. A recording of the May meeting, along with previous Community Update Meetings, is available on the LHSC [website](#).

Celebrating Nursing Week: The power of nurses to transform health

During Nursing Week, from May 11 to 18, LHSC proudly recognized the vital role nurses play as members of Team LHSC in caring for patients and supporting families every day. Messages shared across the organization celebrated the compassion, skill, and dedication of our nursing teams, and the essential role they play in delivering safe, high-quality care within a dynamic, multidisciplinary environment. A highlight of the week was the [2026 Nursing Recognition Awards](#), which honour excellence in patient care, leadership, education, innovation, and equity, and recognize nurses who are strengthening teams and shaping positive patient experiences across LHSC. Nursing Week is a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the strength, leadership, and collaboration of our nursing teams, while also reminding our community of the trusted, compassionate care nurses provide at every stage of life.

Organizational Updates

Building a strong start for future care providers

LHSC is strengthening its Clinical Extern Program by improving how new learners are welcomed and supported in practice. This spring, a new group of Clinical Externs began with a more streamlined orientation to prepare them for safe, confident care, while recruitment efforts

continue to support a steady pipeline of learners. LHSC has also made progress in defining the role of Clinical Externs within care teams. Developed with clinical leaders and educators, this work sets clear expectations and guidance so externs can contribute meaningfully within appropriate boundaries while supporting safe, effective patient care.

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 342

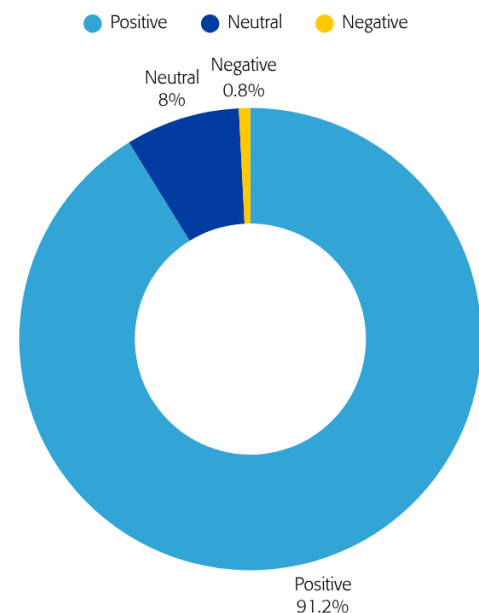
- Positive – 91.2%
- Neutral – 8%
- Negative – 0.8%

Total audience reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): Approximately 261 million

Earned media average (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): Approximately \$3.4 million

Top stories by reach:

- 18.2 million reached:
CBC London: [London program connecting midwives and doctors to expectant mothers, celebrates International Midwifery Day | Afternoon Drive | On Demand | CBC Listen](#)
- 16.4 million reached:
CBC London: [London Ont.'s House of Hope set to close after province denies funding | CBC News](#)
- 16.4 million reached:
CBC London: [City politicians support e-scooter pilot project extension, new fines to improve safety | CBC News](#)
- 16.4 million reached:
CBC London: [LHSC to begin replacing University Hospital windows connected to alleged](#)



[procurement fraud | CBC News](#)

- 16.4 million reached:
CBC London: [Warmer temperatures mark the start of trauma season at local hospitals | London Morning | On Demand | CBC Listen](#)

Coverage analysis:

In May, the Communications and Public Engagement team facilitated five proactive stories including a soft launch of the LHSC's upcoming Experts Program with a trauma season pitch ahead of the May long weekend, a media pitch highlighting International Day of the Midwife, and a proactive statement announcing the issuing of LHSC's RFP to replace windows at University Hospital. The team also supported pitching and interview coordination for two partner-based media releases including an announcement regarding [the first Canadian patient to receive Hemegenix Hemophilia B gene therapy in Ontario](#), and a Canadian Cancer Society-led announcement pertaining to [the largest-ever Canadian clinical trial tests for "poop pills."](#) The team also facilitated the media scrum for the Community Update Meeting. The team responded to three reactive inquiries during the month of May.

Social media report

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 21 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in May, featuring staff and patient stories, summer safety messages, as well as hospital initiatives and Nursing Week celebrations.

Total social media followers (across all platforms): 97,618 (+704 new followers, +.73%)

*number of stakeholders/members of the public that see and have the potential to engage with LHSC's stories on a regular basis.

Total social media impressions: 1,074,907

*number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen

Total social media engagements: 33,756

*number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media

Top social media posts by engagement included:

1. A video highlighting top tips from the Emergency Department ahead of trauma season | [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)
2. Photos celebrating Team LHSC members recognized through the 2026 Nursing Recognition Awards | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)

3. A photo of Dr. Robert Di Cecco promoting two pop-up cervical cancer screening clinics | [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)
4. A video of Dr. Julie Strychowsky demonstrating how she sanitizes her hands before surgery | [Instagram](#)

Social media analysis

Social media audiences engaged with a wide range of content in May, including injury-prevention messages from the Emergency Department (ED), staff stories celebrating Nursing Week, and promotions for drop-in cervical cancer screening clinics, among other topics.

The month's top-performing post featured a video with Dr. Kelly Vogt, Medical Director of the Trauma Program at LHSC, alongside ED nurses sharing their top injury-prevention tips heading into summer. The post was shared ahead of the Victoria Day long weekend, which marks the unofficial start of summer and the beginning of what is often referred to as "trauma season."

LHSC also celebrated Nursing Week from May 11 to 18, highlighting stories from two former nurses reflecting on their careers and the evolution of the profession, a dedicated nursing team advancing research to better support patients living with kidney disease, and photos recognizing the recipients of LHSC's 2026 Nursing Recognition Awards.

Other top-performing posts included the promotion of the South West Regional Cancer Program's (SWRCP) two pop-up cervical cancer screening clinics at St. Joseph's Health Care London and LHSC, and a light-hearted video featuring Dr. Julie Strychowsky, paediatric ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeon at LHSC, demonstrating how she sanitizes her hands before surgery.

Content from LHSCRI also continued to see positive engagement and growth. As of the end of May, there were 5,012 followers across all platforms, with more than 20,000 impressions generated during the month.

TIME Midwives supporting families at home and beyond

LHSC's [Interprofessional Midwifery/Maternal-Fetal-Medicine Expanded \(T.I.M.E.\) Program is improving care for families experiencing high-risk pregnancies](#) through a collaborative model that integrates midwives and Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialists. Since launching in 2022, the program has expanded to support approximately 170 families annually, providing coordinated care throughout pregnancy and up to six weeks of postpartum support at home. By offering services such as newborn assessments, breastfeeding support, mental health guidance, and home visits, the program enhances the patient and family experience while reducing reliance

on hospital-based care. Early results show promising outcomes and ongoing evaluation will help inform opportunities to expand the model across Southwestern Ontario.

The power of nurses

A [recent LHSC story published during Nursing Week](#) highlighted the enduring impact of nursing through the experiences of retired LHSC nurses Joyce Hawkins and Cheryl Shavalier, who began their careers in the 1960's. Reflecting on more than five decades of change in health care, they emphasized that while technology, treatments, and care environments have evolved significantly, the core values of nursing remain unchanged. The story celebrated the vital role nurses have played in shaping health care, mentoring future generations, and improving patient outcomes, while recognizing the profession's continued leadership in driving innovation and excellence in care.

'We are nurses in research': Transforming care beyond the bedside

A team of nurses at LHSCRI are [extending their impact beyond traditional bedside care](#) by actively leading and supporting clinical research focused on kidney disease, dialysis, and heart failure. Drawing on their combined clinical and research expertise, the team emphasizes a patient-centred approach that prioritizes quality of life outcomes such as reduced symptom burden, improved cognition, sleep, and overall wellbeing for people living with chronic illness. Working closely with physicians and patients in clinical trials, they build strong therapeutic relationships while contributing to innovations in care delivery and treatment approaches. The nurses also challenge misconceptions about nursing roles in research, underscoring that nursing knowledge, clinical judgement, and compassionate care remain central even outside the hospital ward, and that nurses are key drivers of evidence-based innovation that transforms health care beyond the bedside.

Ask the Expert: Summer is close, which means trauma season is here

The arrival of the Victoria Day long weekend marked the unofficial start of "trauma season" at LHSC, a period from May through September when trauma-related injuries significantly increase due to warmer weather and more outdoor activity. Dr. Kelly Vogt, Medical Director of the Trauma Program, notes that this rise is largely driven by increased exposure to risks such as motor vehicle collisions, cycling and motorcycle activity, boating, and recreational injuries, often compounded by factors like impaired driving and distractions. [A recent story published on LHSC's website](#) emphasizes that many of these serious injuries are preventable and highlights key safety measures, including avoiding alcohol and drugs when engaging in risky activities,

eliminating distractions such as mobile devices, and consistently using protective equipment like seatbelts, helmets, and life jackets. Despite the seasonal spike in trauma cases, LHSC's trauma and emergency teams remain fully prepared to provide rapid, life-saving care throughout the busy summer months.

Largest-ever Canadian clinical trial tests “poop pills” to improve immunotherapy for lung cancer

The [launch of the LUNA-2 clinical trial](#), the largest-ever Canadian study of its kind, is testing whether fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) delivered as carefully screened microbiome capsules, or “poop pills,” can improve the effectiveness of immunotherapy for people with lung cancer. Conducted by the Canadian Cancer Trials Group and led by researchers at LHSCRI and Lawson of St. Joseph's in collaboration with national partners, the \$4 million trial will enrol about 160 patients with non-small cell lung cancer across Canada and combine FMT with standard immunotherapy and chemotherapy to enhance anti-tumour immune responses. The study is based on growing evidence that the gut microbiome plays a key role in how patients respond to cancer treatment, and aims to improve survival outcomes, reduce side effects, and expand treatment options for a disease that remains the leading cause of cancer death in Canada. If successful, the trial could pave the way for larger studies and represent a significant step forward in personalized, microbiome-based cancer therapy. It is funded by the Canadian Cancer Society and Weston Family Foundation.

How accessibility shapes one nurse's approach to care

LHSC [recently shared the story of Emma Van Dyk](#), a nurse whose lived experience with a genetic condition affecting her vision has shaped both her personal and professional approach to care. Now working with LHSC's Nursing Resource Team, she uses accessibility supports such as screen magnification and adaptive strategies in her daily practice. Van Dyk notes that while accommodations enable her to perform her role effectively, they can also prompt misconceptions or assumptions, underscoring the importance of understanding and open dialogue. She reflects that her lived experience strengthens her nursing practice by fostering empathy, reducing assumptions, and enhancing her focus on individualized, patient-centred care.

Working at LHSC: Helping patients take the next step

As part of a series exploring various roles across the hospital, LHSC recently [featured the work of Patrice Green](#), a Physiotherapy Assistant at LHSC, and how her role supports patients recovering from orthopaedic surgery to regain mobility and independence. The story also highlighted LHSC's expanded approach to care, including group physiotherapy and virtual pre-

operative education sessions for hip and knee replacement patients, which have helped thousands of people prepare for surgery and recovery.

A year of impact: Supporting adolescents and young adults through the AYA Oncology Program

LHSC's Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology Program is [marking its first year of operation](#), highlighting the impact of specialized support for patients aged 15 to 39 facing cancer. Launched in collaboration between the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre and Children's Hospital and funded by the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario, the program was created to address the unique medical, emotional, and life-stage needs of young people with cancer. It provides individualized support through an AYA clinical nurse specialist and connects patients to psychosocial supports, such as counselling and peer connection. In its first year, the AYA Oncology Program has improved patient experience by providing holistic, age-appropriate care that supports not only treatment outcomes but also the personal and developmental challenges faced by adolescents and young adults with cancer.

Ask the Expert: Why do newborns get vitamin K shots?

LHSC recently published an [interview with Dr. Harrison Banner](#), a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist, exploring why newborns receive a vitamin K injection shortly after birth. He explains that they receive the shots to prevent Vitamin K deficiency bleeding (VKDB), a rare but potentially life-threatening condition that can cause severe internal bleeding, including bleeding in the brain. The article emphasizes that a single vitamin K injection is a safe, effective, and evidence-based intervention that provides protection during the first months of life, when infants are most vulnerable. By reducing the risk of serious bleeding complications, the vitamin K shot remains a standard component of newborn care and an important measure to support healthy outcomes for infants.

External Landscape

New privacy law changes to improve access and protect patient information

Starting July 1, 2026, the [Ontario government is making updates to privacy laws](#) that guide how hospitals and other public organizations share information. These changes come from Bill 97

and are designed to make it easier and more efficient to respond to requests for information, while also strengthening how sensitive data is protected. For hospitals, these changes will help teams manage information requests more clearly and efficiently, as they will be able to share records in stages when requests are large or complex, and have more flexibility with timelines when more time is needed. The updates also improve clarity around costs and timelines and remove some older administrative requirements that are no longer needed. At the same time, new protections will keep important cyber security information safe by limiting access to records that could put systems at risk.

New MLHU clinics open in Dorchester and Lucan

New clinics from the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) are [now available in Dorchester and Lucan](#), bringing important health services closer to home for residents in surrounding towns. These nurse-led clinics offer immunizations for children and sexual health services, including testing, counselling, and access to birth control. By placing services directly in these communities, the clinics help reduce the need for travel into London and make it easier for individuals and families to get timely care. For LHSC and the broader health system, these clinics help strengthen access to care across the region by supporting prevention and early intervention. Bringing care closer to home supports growing communities like Dorchester and Lucan and helps ensure that residents can access the services they need, when they need them.

Strengthening privacy practices to protect patient information

A [recent decision by Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner](#) highlights the importance of strong safeguards to protect patient information. It reinforces the expectation that hospitals must act quickly when a potential privacy breach is identified by taking immediate steps to limit access and ensuring patients are informed in a timely way. In response to these strengthened expectations, hospitals are required to have clear and consistent processes in place when managing privacy incidents. LHSC is reinforcing these practices through enhanced staff education, clear communication of expectations, and active leadership engagement to ensure a consistent and timely response to any privacy concerns. Awareness is being increased through multiple avenues, including training, internal communications, and ongoing reinforcement of best practices. At the same time, policies and procedures are being applied with intention and consistency to ensure patient information is protected at all times.

Expansion of provincial antimicrobial resistance and patient safety monitoring tools

In early May 2026, Public Health Ontario [released an updated antimicrobial resistance and stewardship \(AMR-AMS\) data tool](#), providing more comprehensive, province-wide data on antimicrobial use, resistance patterns, and hospital stewardship programs. This reflects a growing provincial emphasis on antimicrobial stewardship as a key patient safety and quality priority, given increasing risks associated with resistant organisms, health-care-associated infections, and inappropriate prescribing. Enhanced data transparency is expected to support benchmarking, targeted interventions, and system-level improvements in infection prevention and control practices.