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THURSDAY

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#SUPPORTOURHEROES BY STAYING HOME, SAY HEALTH-CARE WORKERS

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While the world is urged to stay inside as the COVID-19 pandemic persists, there are hundreds of Halton residents who have no choice but to leave home every day.

They're frontline health care workers, who've been tasked with battling an invisible, seemingly unstoppable force to protect the vulnerable masses.

From doctors to nurses, paramedics to personal support workers, all have been assigned crucial roles in this new fight against a deadly disease.

Tara Yaworski, a medical radi-

ation technologist working in Halton, is striving to stay strong in the face of uncertainty as she tends to patients suspected to have coronavirus. She recently took to social media to share an important message that medical professionals around the world are echoing: please stay home.

"I have seen very ill patients with this virus and it's something no one wants, and something that none of us are immune to," she said. "Any one of us can get this virus and I pray every single day that I don't get it, that no one on my team at work gets it, and that I don't bring it home to my family. Please stay home so that us health care workers can do our job safely."

Although rushing toward a medical emergency isn't anything new for Halton paramedic Vanessa Vis, the uncertainty and ever-changing nature of the pandemic is definitely weighing on her mind as she responds to calls these days in Milton.

"The stressors of our job have definitely increased in having to decide whether or not someone may possibly have COVID-19," she said.

Currently those who call 911 are being screened with a series

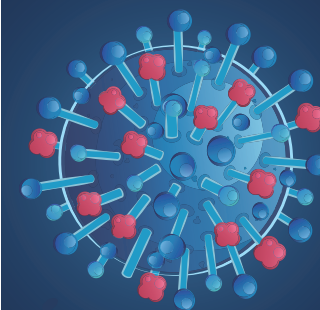
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Graham Paine/Torstar

Halton Region EMS paramedic Vanessa Vis dons a face shield and other personal protective equipment - face mask, latex gloves and disposable gown - designed to protect frontline first responders from exposure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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