

March 17, 2020

## COVID-19

### Media Release

#### **Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) Expands Restrictions and Screening**

Lake of the Woods District Hospital is activating its pandemic plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of patients, their families, staff, professional staff, and volunteers is our utmost priority. The plan is in place for the safety of our community.

Although precautions are being taken, the risk of Ontarians contracting COVID-19 remains low. However, our Hospital has taken the following actions and continuously adapts to the evolving situation.

#### **Visitor Restrictions**

To help prevent the risk or spread of COVID-19, **visitors and volunteers are not permitted at the Hospital effective Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. until further notice.** Limited exceptions include end of life, critical care, labour and delivery, paediatric, as well as other extenuating circumstances. Any other exceptions are to be determined by the manager or Nursing Supervisor. Visitors will be screened upon entry, will identify which patient they are going to see, and provided a visitor badge to be worn while in the building. Visitors will be required to check out upon exit and return their badge.

**In addition, learners are not permitted at the Hospital effective Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. until further notice.** Exceptions will be made for medical residents, as well as students in their final education program year whose graduation depends on the completion of the placement.

**Visitors are not permitted in the Emergency Department but may remain in the waiting area.** Exceptions will be parents/guardians of minor children being treated. Any other exceptions to be determined by the unit manager or Hospital Supervisor on duty.

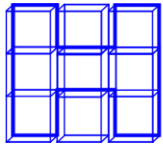
**The Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig (WNHAC) Hostel will be closed to further admissions.**

#### **Staff Travel**

Staff who have traveled anywhere outside of Canada and returned to Canada on or after March 13, 2020, must self-isolate for a period of 14 days upon return and are not eligible to work.

#### **COVID-19 Screening**

Screening for COVID-19 is taking place for anyone working or coming into the Hospital. Screening will follow Ministry of Health guidelines and will involve answering questions related to COVID-19



## LAKE OF THE WOODS DISTRICT HOSPITAL

symptoms, temperature check, as well as recent travel history. All people will be screened before being allowed in.

To protect yourself and others from illness causing germs, please ensure you follow these everyday precautions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Practice proper respiratory etiquette (covering your nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing);
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- Avoid contact with people who are ill;
- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness;
- It is recommended to get your flu shot if you haven't already as the flu virus is still circulating in the community;
- Seek medical care if required and disclose any recent travel history.

Additional measures may be implemented depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. We are committed to inform the community accordingly.

Please continue to contact the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) for more information regarding COVID-19 screening at 468-3147. More information is also available at:

<https://www.nwhu.on.ca/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

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