



April 9, 2020

COVID-19

Media Release

Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) Requests Summer Residents to Respect Stay at Home Practices

As we approach the Easter weekend, we recognize that we are doing so in a very different way in our lives.

From the hospital's perspective, we will be continuing our planning for what will come our way over the next few weeks. It is fair to say we are nervous since we do not know what we will face. However, we do have an excellent and talented team of health care workers, professional staff, and support staff that will do our utmost to serve our community. We will be as ready as we can be.

For many of us, this will be a weekend of reflection, and less so of family gatherings, with all of the concerns about COVID-19 and the spread from person-to-person. As we take on the COVID-19 pandemic and witness how it is impacting different countries, cities, and health systems around the world, important lessons are being learned. Since COVID-19 is a new virus, humans do not have immunity against it and the virus can easily spread from person-to-person. The countries and cities that have implemented social distancing and stay at home strategies are doing the best in fighting this pandemic. Behavioural change is proving to be our best weapon as a society in our fight against COVID-19 infection spread. In Northwestern Ontario this has been embraced across our communities and it is our belief that it will reduce the level of illness in our communities and the care needs we would otherwise have faced in our health system.

LWDH would like to thank Minister Greg Rickford, Mayor Dan Reynard, and Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh for their leadership, and we support them on their public positions taken over the importance of summer residents exercising their ability to help us by respecting our social distancing and stay at home practices so that we can reduce the burden of illness and the demand on the healthcare system. We are all in this together, and it is important that we all do our part. Stay safe – stay home.

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