



November 13, 2020

COVID-19

Media Release

Lake of the Woods District Hospital COVID-19 Response Update.

While there are currently no admitted positive COVID-19 cases in our Hospital, there has been an increase in positive cases in our community. It is understandable that a sudden rise in COVID-19 cases may heighten anxieties for some people. Please make your personal health a priority.

As we enter this new phase of the pandemic, many parts of the province and country are experiencing very high rates of COVID-19 positive cases. Every community member is encouraged to travel only if essential. Those who must travel are urged to self-isolate for 7 days upon return for the protection of all, prior to entering the hospital. Patients who have a non-urgent appointment at our Hospital and who have travelled outside of Northwestern Ontario may need to have their appointment rescheduled if they have not self-isolated on return.

Our Pandemic Management Team is able to implement guidelines and processes at our Hospital, and we often engage with other organizations to encourage similar measures. Infection prevention measures are our best defense against COVID-19, and help to keep our Hospital Safe. Although entrance screening, mandatory masking, care partner restrictions, and travel limitations are sometimes difficult, these practices are in place for the protection of all. We will be updating our Designated Visitor Policy to reflect the change in travel restrictions for entry to the hospital.

With positive COVID-19 cases on the rise in Ontario, Manitoba and Canada, the Pandemic Management Team may have to implement further restrictions. Constant monitoring of the situation and medical evidence guide discussions and decisions. The current situation in the Kenora region and Northwestern Ontario does not impact our hospital activity and we are increasing our surgical activity to meet the needs of the community and to address back-logs in Northwestern Ontario.

We are extremely proud of our Hospital's, Health Partner's and Community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ongoing diligence of our collective efforts will ensure our region maintains its COVID-19 Green Status (prevent). Thank you for your dedication and understanding. We are in this together.

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