

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake of the Woods District Hospital now ‘Mask Friendly’

Kenora, ON, June 12, 2023 – In May, Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) informed the public that LWDH had shifted from mandatory masking in all areas to only requiring masking in patient care areas. We indicated our intent was to evaluate this initial shift and determine what to do in the patient care areas based on our own review and consideration of what is happening in other Ontario hospitals. Following this assessment, we have decided to amend our masking practices in patient care areas. Effective immediately, with very few exceptions, families and visitors are no longer required to wear masks in the hospital.

Exceptions include:

- Patients experiencing fever or respiratory symptoms WILL be required to wear a mask.
- Visitors of patients on respiratory isolation WILL be required to wear a mask.
- In the Emergency Department, as patient volumes can rise quickly and there may be an inability to physically distance from someone who is ill, as our waiting room space is limited, everyone is encouraged to wear a mask.

LWDH will continue to be ‘mask friendly’. Masks will be available at the screening desk as well as in patient care units for anyone wishing to wear one.

As with all COVID-19 policies and practices, masking at LWDH will be subject to ongoing evaluation in relation to outbreaks or increased community transmission.

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