

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Important Update on Community Bloodwork Services**

*Kenora, ON, January 29, 2026* – Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) has initiated a temporary measure to support the demand for timely bloodwork in our region following the recent reduction in LifeLabs' hours.

**Patients with an urgent bloodwork requisition can visit LWDH, entering through the main lobby and checking in at the Information Desk between 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday.** However, please understand the following:

- Emergency and Inpatient blood collections have priority
- Wait times may exceed 1 hour
- Appointment times cannot be booked, it is walk in only
- You must register downstairs first and wear your green armband before getting blood work drawn
- You must bring and provide all blood work requisitions and orders. We will not call physicians for orders.

This temporary service is intended to ensure that patients with urgent needs continue to have access to essential services. For regular, routine, or non-urgent bloodwork, please continue to use LifeLabs and their online appointment booking system.

LWDH has not received any additional staffing or funding to provide these extra services. Despite this, our team believes that timely access to bloodwork is an essential part of patient care and is trying to support the community to the best of our ability.

Because of the increased demand and limited resources, wait times may be long. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding as our hardworking laboratory staff manage this added pressure while continuing to deliver safe, high-quality care.

LWDH will continue to monitor the situation closely and advocate for sustainable, long-term solutions that ensure reliable access to bloodwork services for everyone in our region.

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