

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LWDH continues flood response; Surgical Services impacted

Kenora, ON, May 7, 2026 – Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) continues to respond to the flood that occurred on May 6, 2026. The incident was caused by an infrastructure failure on a fourth-floor, resulting in water impacting several areas of the hospital. While the initial cause has been identified, assessment of affected spaces and equipment is ongoing, and restoration teams remain onsite to support recovery efforts.

“Water can cause significant and rapid damage in a hospital environment due to the complexity of systems, specialized equipment, and strict infection control requirements, particularly in an aging facility. This has contributed to the extent of the service disruptions we are experiencing,” said Cheryl O’Flaherty, President & CEO. “We are extremely grateful to On Side Restoration for their swift response and continued efforts, and to our incredible LWDH team who have absolutely rallied in response to this event. Their teamwork, dedication, and unwavering commitment to patient care have been truly exceptional.”

Air quality testing is underway, with results expected mid-next week. These results will help guide long-term response plans.

Service Impacts

- **Surgical Services:**
Surgical Services has been significantly impacted. All surgeries scheduled for the next three weeks are now being cancelled. Patients will be contacted directly by hospital staff.
- **Emergency Department:**
The Emergency Department remains open and fully operational. If you are experiencing an emergency, call 911 or come to the hospital.
- **Obstetrics (Maternity):**
The Obstetrics Department remains open for low-risk deliveries only. Patients requiring higher-risk care should speak with their primary care provider to make appropriate arrangements.
- **Other Services:**
Some services, including Telemedicine and Outpatient Psychiatry have been impacted and may operate at reduced capacity or in alternate locations. Affected patients will be contacted directly.

Our team is working closely with regional hospital partners, including sites in northwestern Ontario and Manitoba, to ensure patients continue to receive the care they need.

For patients with booked appointments, **if you have not received a phone call, your appointment remains scheduled as planned.** Please note that this may change, and we ask

that you monitor your phone and voicemail closely. Calls from the hospital may appear as a private number.

Several services and workspaces have been relocated. As always, patients and visitors are asked to check in at Patient Registration upon arrival for direction to the appropriate location.

Patience and understanding is appreciated as this difficult situation is navigated. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

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