



March 15, 2020

Media Release

Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) cancels elective and non-essential surgeries and expands visitor restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Lake of the Woods District Hospital has activated its pandemic plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of patients, their families, staff, professional staff, and volunteers continues to be our utmost priority.

Although precautions are being taken, the risk of Ontarians contracting COVID-19 remains low. As of Sunday March 15, our Hospital has taken the following actions and continuously adapts to the evolving situation.

Visitor Restrictions Extended to Emergency Department

No visitors will be permitted in the Emergency Department but may remain in the waiting area.

Exceptions will be parents/guardians of minor children being treated. Any other exceptions as determined by the unit manager or hospital supervisor.

Cancellation/Postponement of Elective and Non-Essential Surgeries

To help prevent the risk or spread of COVID-19, we have begun cancelling/postponing elective and non-essential surgeries at the hospital, effective Monday March 16th until further notice.

We will be assessing outpatient clinics and surgical schedules this week.

To protect yourself and others from illness causing germs, please ensure you follow these everyday precautions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Practice proper respiratory etiquette (covering your nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing);
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- Avoid contact with people who are ill;
- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness;
- It is recommended to get your flu shot if you haven't already as the flu virus is still circulating in the community;
- Seek medical care if required and disclose any recent travel history.

Additional measures may be implemented depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. We are committed to inform the community accordingly.

Please continue to contact the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) for more information regarding COVID-19 screening at 468-3147. More information is also available at:

<https://www.nwhu.on.ca/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

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