



# CAMPBELLFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2013**

## **Clostridium difficile outbreak – no restrictions for hospital visitors at this time**

An outbreak of *clostridium difficile* (C. difficile) has been identified at Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH).

C. difficile is a bacteria found in the human bowel. It can cause diarrhea and is one of the most common infections in hospitals, health-care facilities and in the broader community. Individuals most at risk include those who have taken antibiotics in the past two months, are older than 65 years of age, and have underlying illnesses and multiple or prolonged hospital stays.

Like other hospitals across the country, Campbellford Memorial Hospital is monitoring for the presence of C. difficile among its patients for some time now. The hospital has been following best practices recommended by the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). This includes best practices in the areas of patient accommodation, patient contact precautions, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, visitors, patient transfer and patient discharge, such as:

- Having housekeeping staffing levels consistent with provincial guidelines.
- Double-cleaning patient rooms and following other cleaning protocols where C. difficile is present in a patient.
- Assigning dedicated nursing care to patients in isolation with C. difficile.
- Being vigilant in enforcing proper hand-washing among all hospital personnel, patients and hospital visitors. Hand wash stations are installed at the entrance to the hospital, near elevators and in all patient care areas to prevent the spread of infection. Ongoing education is provided to staff, visitors and patients on the importance of this practice. Good hand hygiene practices are also shared with patients and their families upon discharge from the hospital.
- Posting outbreak warnings at entrances to 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.
- Monitoring any patients who develop new on-set of diarrhea will be placed on contact precautions pending lab confirmation of C. difficile.

CMH remains fully operational, with programs and services across the hospital unaffected.

CMH expects all visitors to be diligent in practicing infection prevention and control practices including hand hygiene when visiting the hospital at any time. Frequent hand washing, particularly before and after patient contact, is mandatory and vital to reducing health care-associated infections.

Updates will be provided as information changes.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**About Campbellford Memorial Hospital** - CMH is a combined medical/surgical health care facility located in Trent Hills. It serves approximately 30,000 Northumberland, Peterborough and Hastings County residents, as well as a large seasonal population of cottagers and tourists enjoying the beautiful Kawartha Lakes Region and the Trent River System. As the only hospital located between Belleville and Peterborough, Ontario, CMH provides a comprehensive array of acute care services. The Hospital's 24-hour Emergency Department has approximately 20,000 visits each year. CMH's community health care campus partners include: Trent Hills Family Health Team; Campbellford Memorial Health Centre; Campbellford Memorial Multicare Lodge; Campbellford and District Community Mental Health Centre; as well as other area community agencies.