

PRESS RELEASE



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For more information, please contact:
Michelle Wellman, Executive Assistant to CEO
Campbellford Memorial Hospital
E: mwellman@cmh.ca P: 705-653-1140 x 2006

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Campbellford Memorial Hospital Admits First COVID-Positive Patient

On Monday, August 24th, the Emergency Department (ED) medical team at Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) treated and admitted a suspect COVID-19 patient from Trent Hills. Hospital personnel screened and swabbed the individual for symptoms of COVID-19 upon making the decision to admit the patient to the In-patient Medical/Surgical Unit. The patient was transferred to a private room on the inpatient unit and all infection prevention and isolation procedures were initiated by staff. Late Tuesday, August 25th, the Hospital received confirmation the test swab for the patient was positive for COVID-19. CMH is working with the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (HKPR) District Health Unit and the HKPR Medical Officer of Health to initiate case and contact management with the confirmed COVID-19 patient.

“We have planned, prepared and heightened infection control efforts within the hospital to ensure the safety of our hospital community and limit the potential spread of infection through the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to the Emergency Department and Inpatient Medical/Surgical Unit care teams who supported this patient with compassion and professionalism within the ED and through the transfer onto the in-patient unit. The diagnosis, admission and management of this patient as per pandemic preparedness protocols indicates the systems and process we have established and continue to have in place work very well to protect our staff and patients,” said Varouj Eskedjian, CEO of Campbellford Memorial Hospital. Varouj Eskedjian added “Unfortunately given the recent admission, visitor restrictions, will be put back in place at the Campbellford Memorial Hospital and Multicare Lodge for the time being in order to minimize the risk of transmission”.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of infection prevention and control procedures and the best practices the Hospital needs to maintain with all interactions with patients. It’s why handwashing, social distancing and the proper use of personal protective equipment are so essential” says Marilyn Petherick, Infection Control/OR Nurse at CMH, adding: “Within the Hospital and in our community, we must all continue to be vigilant with our social distancing, mask wearing and consistent hand washing to reduce the spread of infection within our community.”

Update on Services:

Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) continues to provide essential services and its staff, physicians and community partners are working very hard to promote and protect the health and well-being of our community during the COVID-19 Pandemic. For local updates, visit the HKPR District Health Unit web site at <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/>

People with symptoms that fall outside of the COVID-19 as defined by Public Health are encouraged to seek out medical support at the hospital's Emergency Department if required. This includes anyone with symptoms such as the following:

- Severe chest pain or pressure
- Trouble breathing
- Signs and symptoms of stroke
- Sudden confusion
- Seizures
- Heavy bleeding
- Severe pain anywhere in the body
- High fevers not better with medicine
- Laceration and suspected broken bones
- Suicidal thoughts

“Campbellford Memorial Hospital’s Emergency Department is continuing to support patients with suspect COVID-19 symptoms, while ensuring proper infection control practices to enhance the safety of patients and their care providers. If you are seriously unwell and need immediate, urgent medical care, waiting too long may cause your problem to become much more serious and difficult to treat and may result in more permanent injury or disability,” stated Dr. Bruce Bain, Chief of Staff at CMH.

The community is also encouraged to reach out to their family care provider or telemedicine clinics for common illness such as colds, earaches, sore throats, urinary tract infections, low grade fevers and chronic pain management, among other minor health symptoms.

Campbellford Memorial Hospital has moved forward with resumption of non-urgent procedures and other services, including:

- **Diagnostic Imaging:** Elective appointments are being booked including all elective mammograms and bone mineral densities, elective follow-up and screening, CT scans (excluding oncologic studies), elective ultrasound examinations and X-rays. Throughout the pandemic, our Diagnostic Department has continued to provide imaging services to inpatients, Emergency Room patients and outpatients with acute symptoms or other urgent issues.

- **Surgical and Endoscopy Services and Outpatient Clinics:** Endoscopy appointments and Outpatient Clinics have resumed. Requisitions and referrals received through CMH Booking Department are being triaged by our Technicians. Patients will be called and booked appropriately.
- **Mental Health Services:** All group programs continued to be canceled; the team is continuing virtual options. Counselling and case management will continue to be supported virtually or by telephone support with a limited number of “urgent” face to face appointments.

For Early Psychosis Intervention Programs, injections will be given in clinic by program nurse, and medication renewals and all other regular contacts will continue virtually or by phone with limited face to face appointments available. Psychiatry consultations will continue to be offered virtually and medication renewals will be completed by phone. Court Support/Diversion program: all criminal court matters will be adjourned according to Ontario Court of Justice timelines. Referrals are still being accepted. Phone support remains available. Clients of the Community Mental Health Department who present at the hospital requesting to see their counselor are asked to call **705-632-2015** instead and leave a message. We will follow up with people as soon as possible (Monday - Friday 8:30-4:30). As usual, individuals who are experiencing mental health crisis should proceed to the Emergency Department.

- **GAIN Team:** The Trent Hills GAIN team continues to accept referrals as usual. The team continues to support clients by telephone and virtual supports with limited face to face clinic and home visits available. Our Geriatrician clinic continues to be offered face to face in the TH GAIN clinic.

For more information, check out CMH web site at www.cmh.ca