CAMPBELLFORD
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Campbellford Memorial Hospital Treating Increased Community Need for Emergency Care

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Campbellford Memorial Hospital Team Working Hard to Ensure Patient Access to Emergency Care

Flu season is in full swing in Trent Hills and if you or a family member has required urgent care, then you know that Campbellford Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) is busier than usual this month. The hospital wants the community to know that it is treating a higher than usual number of patients visiting its ED for treatment and critical care and asks for your patience while waiting for these important services.

"It has been extremely busy with an ever increasing number of in-patients and visits to our ED. On an average day, our ED team treats around 55 patients a day. For the past week, we've been treating up to 80 patients a day. Our bed capacity for in-patients is 34 patients and we currently have 38 patients admitted for in-patient care with others in ED requiring admittance," explains Brad Hilker, President and CEO, Campbellford Memorial Hospital. "I would like to thank our team of caring professionals for their hard work and commitment to provide a high level of care to our patients and families. Their efforts truly make a difference to these patients during this busy time."

Like all hospitals, CMH uses triage to determine the priority of patient treatments based on the severity of their condition. When you visit the ED, you can expect a triage nurse to perform a brief, focused assessment and ultimately identify those who cannot wait to be seen. CMH has also recently increased Nurse Practitioner coverage within its ED to help address increasing patient volumes and improve access to care when people need it most.

 "By planning ahead, and making use of alternative resources for non-emergency situations, we can minimize the current strain on our local ED and help keep the service accessible for those who need it the most," adds Hilker.

Below are a few steps that we can all take to ensure the optimal health of the community served by CMH's ED team:

Hand Hygiene:
Minimize your risk of catching the flu or spreading it around by washing your hands, often especially when you are out in public. Hand hygiene is the single most effective step you can take to stop the spread of seasonal viruses.

Flu vaccination – Get the flu shot, not the flu:
Protect yourself, your family and everyone you love with a flu vaccination. It's available from most family physician offices, community health centres, walk-in clinics and pharmacies, and it's your best line of defence against a potentially dangerous virus.

Ensure Your Medical Information is Up to Date:
Have an up-to-date Ontario Health Card when coming to an emergency room or doctor's office. Bring a list of all medications being taken on a regular basis, along with any other important information such as allergies.

Alternative Options to the Campbellford Memorial Hospital ED

Campbellford Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department is always ready when you need it, but the team does advise that you consider family doctors or community clinics for non-emergency health concerns. If your family physician is not available, and your situation is non-urgent, you can:

- Check the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care **Your Health Care Options website at www.ontario.ca/healthcareoption for information on the various health care services in your area**
- Call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 for free telephone access to a Registered Nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Contact the Trent Hills Family Health Team at 705-653-1801. The Trent Hills Family Health Team (THFHT) works out of four locations in Campbellford, Hastings, Warkworth and Colborne.

- 30 -

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