

PRESS RELEASE



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**Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update:
Campbellford Memorial Hospital Expands Critical Care Capacity, While Increasing Infection Controls
How You Can Support Your Hospital: Stay Home so We Can Be There For You**

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. We are in the early stages of the pandemic. Public health officials continue to advise that risk in Northumberland County remains low. For local updates, visit the HKPR District Health Unit web site at <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/>

Increasing Critical Care Capacity for Pandemic Patients

We are guided by the principle that the safety of our patients, our team and our community is paramount. CMH continues to adapt and make changes within our hospital to ensure we are operating consistently with Ontario Health pandemic planning guidelines. These steps are focused on minimizing the potential spread of infection, ensuring our staff have access to the appropriate PPE at all times and to support patients impacted by the pandemic.

- CMH has been following the Directives and Guidance Documents from Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Ontario, Ontario Health, Ontario Health – East Region and Peterborough Regional Health Centre. Our staff are focusing on strict safety precautions, including screening everyone who enters the hospital, using personal protective equipment (PPE), and creating appropriate spacing for distancing between patients.
- Our CEO, Chief of Staff and Clinical Director are participating on local, OHT-N, regional and/or Ontario Health East Region teleconferences and webinars to ensure consistency of approach, coordination of efforts and for gathering information to be disseminated to staff and the community.
- Our CMH Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) is connected to local Public Health information and coordination.
- We have created dedicated areas to provide care to patients with suspected and confirmed positive COVID-19, and have plans established to ramp up our capacity if demand requires it. Our pandemic bed capacity plan currently contemplates:
 - 37-bed Med/Surgical Inpatient Unit
 - 8-bed COVID Unit in Day Surgery
 - 4-bed ALC Unit in Ambulatory Care

- 2 Temporary (24-48 hours) Ventilation beds in the OR #1 (negative air pressure)
 - Moving the ED Trauma Room into OR #2 (negative air pressure)
- We have made changes within our Emergency Department waiting area and Emergency Department to minimize the potential spread of infection.
- Our services are now complemented with the opening of a COVID-19 Assessment Centre at the Trent Hills Family Health team offices across the street. The Assessment Centre is providing assessments over the phone as well as providing further assessment and testing if needed. CMH wants to assure community members who present to the CMH Emergency Department with potential mild/moderate COVID-19 symptoms can easily be referred to the Centre for further assessment and testing if needed.
- Our hospital is also part of a regional response team with community partners who are committed to a coordinated local response that maximizes resources for greater impact within the extended community. For example, Northumberland County Paramedics are supporting in-home assessments for those who have mobility challenges or are unable to secure transportation to the assessment centre.

How You Can Support Infection Control Initiatives in the Community

As we move into the Easter Weekend, community members are reminded of the importance of social distancing, proper hand hygiene and self-isolating to reduce the risk of community spread.

The following services will continue to be postponed or cancelled until May 3, 2020:

Non-Essential Services: On direction from the Minister of Health and Ontario Health, CMH is pausing or postponing elective and 'non-essential' services over the next few weeks. We will be postponing services and/or work deemed non-essential. All patients are being contacted regarding any postponements.

Diagnostic Imaging: All elective diagnostic imaging appointments booked at CMH are postponed until further notice. This includes all elective mammograms and bone mineral densities, elective follow-up and screening, CT scans (excluding oncologic studies), elective ultrasound examinations and X-rays. *Our Diagnostic Department will continue 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: All surgical and endoscopy appointments, and Outpatient Clinics have been cancelled until at least May 3, 2020. However, requisitions and referrals received through CMH Booking Department will continue to be triaged by our Technicians. Patients will be called and booked appropriately in the future when the restrictions are lifted. Physician's offices have been notified of our current restrictions and process.

Mental Health Services: All group programs are cancelled. All counselling and case management will be by phone support only. For Early Psychosis Intervention Programs, injections will be given in clinic by EPI Nurse, medication renewals and all other regular contacts will be completed by phone. For Psychiatry, medication renewals will be completed by phone. Court Support/Diversion program, all criminal court matters will be postponed, phone support is available. Clients of the Community Mental Health Department who present at the hospital requesting to see their counsellor 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).

Our Emergency Department continues to provide emergency and urgent care to patients. If you have an emergency and need medical assistance, please call 911 immediately. They will screen you for COVID-19 and take additional precautions if it is a possibility.

We are directing anyone coming to the hospital to enter through the Emergency Department door. We are actively screening everyone, including staff, entering the hospital to determine if extra COVID-19 precautions need to be taken by our staff. All patients will be provided with a cloth mask to wear while at hospital.

Carefully Managing Supplies and Equipment, While Ensuring Staff and Patient Safety

We have shared guidelines for proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) usage for staff and physicians caring for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients. There is a global shortage of PPE and medical equipment required to protect our health care workers against potential infection. We are judiciously using current PPE within our inventory and working with regional partners and government to secure additional supplies. We have also received several donations of PPE from business and individuals through CMH Foundation and we are grateful for these donations.

To supplement our current inventory of Personal Protective Equipment, the hospital is continuing to call out to community organizations, businesses and others (e.g. dental offices, nail spas) for in-kind donations of PPE that could supplement existing supplies and support the safety of our front-line personnel, while reducing the spread of infection. This request is in anticipation of a potentially prolonged response to the pandemic. Ideally, but not necessary, the following items should be in original and unopened packaging:

- N-95 Masks (Mask sizes: 3M 1860 SM, 1860 REG, 1870+ ONE SIZE, 8110 SM & 8210)
- 3M Filters – p100 2091/07000 in original packaging
- New Goggles and Eye Protection that meets Health and Safety Standards
- Disposable Isolation Gowns
- Surgical Masks with or without shields
- Non-latex Disposable Gloves

Campbellford Memorial Hospital Foundation would like to acknowledge PPE donations received from many area residents and the following organizations:

- Ashley Tinney Fischer's Law Office
- Bennett's Home Furniture
- Campbellford Home Hardware
- Campbellford Veterinary Services
- Canadian Tire Trent Hills
- Covia Canada Ltd. (Havelock)
- Dr. Lai Dentistry (Warkworth)
- Eurkwoods
- Havelock Carquest
- Jewlr
- Kawartha-Pine Ridge District School Board
- King Automotive
- L.W.M.S. Ltd. (Little's Welding)

- McGillicafey's Pub and Eatery (Mike Metcalf)
- Municipality of Trent Hills
- Outpost Packaging
- Research Casting Intl Ltd.
- RONA Campbellford
- Team Eagle
- Trent Hills Auto Parts
- Trent Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Trent Hills Fire Department
- Microfactory/Venture13
- Warkworth Community Service Club

Thanks is also extended to Rob Pope of the Rotary Club of Campbellford and Erik and Kim Kowal for assisting in the pick-up of the PPE donations.

If your organization or business has access to inventory that is not being used at this time and would like to donate these items to the hospital, please contact John Russell, Executive Director, Campbellford Memorial Hospital Foundation at jrussell@cmh.ca or call 705-632-2014. Please do not bring these items to our Emergency Department. All equipment donations must be vetted and cannot be dropped off without first confirming they can be accepted. We will arrange for delivery or pick-up with you when you contact John Russell.