



For immediate release: March 16, 2020

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Carolyn Plummer
President &
Chief Executive Officer
Haliburton Highlands
Health Services
cplummer@hhhs.ca
705-457-2527

Haliburton Highland Health Services Continues to Respond to COVID-19 Global Pandemic

Haliburton Highlands Health Services [HHHS] is operating with an abundance of caution to ensure the health of our community with respect to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Containment of spread and protection of our community requires a concerted and coordinated effort from all. HHHS is working with local, regional, and provincial partners to ensure every precautionary step is taken. In response to emerging provincial directives, the following actions have been taken:

- Long-term care homes are closed to non-essential visitors. Steps are being taken at both Highland Wood and Hyland Crest Homes to ensure families can better connect virtually to their loved ones. Activation staff are working to increase the social recreation programming for residents in the homes.
- Acute Care unit at Haliburton Site is closed to non-essential visitors.
- Active Screening at both Haliburton and Minden Emergency Departments for all patients to minimize spread in waiting areas.
- Entrance points to hospital and long-term care homes are minimized to ensure all people entering the buildings, including staff are screened.
- All staff are self-screening in all programs and locations daily.

HHHS Community Programs:

HHHS community health service providers (GAIN, Diabetes Education, Palliative Care Community Team, Mental Health Services, Nursing Foot Care, Physiotherapy) will be working with their clients to ensure that their needs are met in a safe way through telephone and home visits where indicated and possible. Best evidence at this point is to avoid gatherings of potentially at risk people. For this reason, HHHS will be cancelling many group programs until further notice. This includes:

- Diabetes Self Management Education Workshops
- Community Mental Health Programs
- Balanced Fitness/Falls Prevention
- Adult Day Program
- Grief Support Group
- Social Recreation Drop-In Programs

- Diner's Clubs
- Cancer Support Group
- Gatherings of volunteers, community education sessions, etc.

HHHS regrets the postponement of these programs, however, the Community Programs team is actively working across all programs and community partners to ensure those most in need have the support they need at this time.

About Haliburton Highlands Health Services

Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

Haliburton Highlands Health Services, working with partners and accountable to our community, promotes wellness and provides access to essential, high quality health services including: Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care) Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services and Community Support Services.

About Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation is an incorporated registered Canadian charity that financially supports the hospitals and health care facilities in Haliburton County, for capital projects, equipment, education programs and community support services. The money is raised through personal, business & corporate donations, special events, promotions, annual giving and the special gift program. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who dedicate their time and expertise to have better health care and hospital facilities. The Foundation does not provide funds for the operation of the facilities.