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

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HHHS Community Support Services Response Team Activated

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.

Locally, while many Community Support Services [CSS] programs have been suspended, the HHHS CSS team is taking every measure to ensure that our community needs are met during this time. The staff team has been activated to work with local businesses and community partners to create a coordinated response. “We recognize that many community members, particularly seniors, might be facing challenges with routine activities – such as grocery shopping, going to pharmacies, and generally staying connected and engaged “ says Stephanie MacLaren, VP, Community Programs. “HHHS wants to be the place they call. We have reached out, for example, to Community Paramedicine, local grocery stores and pharmacies in an effort to support any additional volume or extraneous demands they may face with more and more members of our community practicing self-isolation or social distancing. As one would expect from our community – the response has been great. We will work together to support our community”. HHHS will work to collaboratively craft response strategies as the community identifies need.

CSS would first like to remind the community of services available during this time:

- Meals on Wheels – frozen nutritious meals delivered to your home
- Emergency Response Systems – provide personal buttons to alert emergency contacts (and EMS if necessary) if a client is in distress due to illness or a fall, for example.
- Friendly visiting, security checks – can be done daily via phone or as requested/required by clients and caregivers– and the CSS team is working to explore options to provide virtual connection to reduce social isolation.
- All program teams (such as Mental Health, GAIN, Supportive Housing, Hospice Palliative Care) continue to intake and support clients.

Ongoing solutions to community and individual issues will be addressed as they come to our attention. Groceries, pharmacy, post-office pick-ups etc. are on the radar.

“We want to hear from community members with what they anticipate their needs being – and to be that one number they can call to problem solve. We are truly ‘building the road as we walk on it’ and have every confidence we can rally together as a community of service providers to build a strong road to support our community journey. What we most want the community to know right now is that no one is alone in this – and we are here to help” says MacLaren.

**Community members can call 705 457-2941 (between 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Friday)
or email infocc@hhhs.ca if we can help.**

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.