



Weekly Community Update

Week of April 10, 2020

Dear friends and neighbours of Haliburton County,

It was a big week for us here at HHHS, with countless hours of work behind the scenes resulting in our announcement that we have expanded the Acute Care Unit in Haliburton from 15 to 21 beds for COVID related needs, and created a new 9 bed Acute Care Unit in Minden for non-COVID-related admissions.

Together, these 15 new Acute Care beds and the separation of our sites will help us be as prepared as possible for the anticipated increase in patients caused by COVID-19. While we are asking residents with respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever) who wish to visit an Emergency Department to come to Haliburton, and those without respiratory symptoms to visit the Minden Emergency Department, I want to assure the community that no emergency will be turned away from either site.

I can't express just how much hard work has gone into these critical preparations, and how proud I am of our team for the hours and incredible labour they have poured into this effort.

Protecting our staff

Just as important are the continued steps we are taking to protect the health and safety of our staff.

This week, in partnership with Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre, we have made separate accommodations available to any member of our staff team who would feel more comfortable staying in a location other than their home residence after their shifts or are challenged working extra-long hours, commuting home, only to have to turn around and commute right back to work. These accommodations will not be used by any staff who have to self-isolate.

Community appreciation

I also want to recognize all of the efforts being made community-wide to pull together, support one another, and deliver services and materials to those in need. From the emergency responder parades through [Haliburton](#) and [Minden villages](#), to the [messages of thanks](#) for [front-line workers](#), to the [creative collaborations](#) and [innovative changes](#) to '[business as usual](#)' – thank you for lifting our spirits, working to protect the health and safety of our community, and showing kindness in the face of hardship.

Food donation policy

With all of this wonderful support, I do need to remind everyone of the food donation policy at HHHS. While we are incredibly grateful for offers of food donations to support our staff and physicians, we are unable to accept such donations at this time. If you or someone you know wishes to donate food, we encourage you to reach out to our local food banks ([Central Food Network](#), [Minden Food Bank](#), and [Haliburton 4C's Food Bank](#)) to support local families in need during this difficult time.



Taking care

This weekend, as we look for new ways to celebrate Easter and Passover or just the incoming spring (I promise, it will come!), please stay vigilant with your physical distancing, good hygiene and hand-washing, and being home as much as you are able. Take some time to rest and practice self-care, while reaching out online or by phone to friends, family, and neighbours.

If you or someone you know might need a little extra support this weekend – or any day – please check out our [“Mental Health Supports”](#) section of the HaliburtonCares.ca website. New information is being added daily, and we hope the site will continue to be valuable to our community.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carolyn Plummer'.

Carolyn Plummer
President & CEO