



Weekly Community Update

Week of April 24, 2020

Dear friends and neighbours of Haliburton County,

We have a few new updates to share with you as our work to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 continue.

Protecting the Health & Safety of Long-Term Care Residents

This week, we completed our efforts to seal off our Long-Term Care homes (Highland Wood and Hyland Crest) from the rest of the hospital site in both Haliburton and Minden. We have installed temporary walls between the two areas, created separate entrances for staff and essential visitors to use depending on which part of the facility they need to access, designated separate break and change rooms for staff, and re-designed work flows so that there is no cross-over between the homes and the rest of the hospital.

All of this work – and it has been a considerable amount! - has been done in an effort to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 from the Emergency and Acute areas to our more vulnerable Long-Term Care residents.

We are also moving forward with increased testing for every Long-Term Care resident and staff member, as mandated this week by the Government of Ontario. We will continue taking resident and staff temperatures twice-daily, maintaining physical distancing within the homes, and having staff use the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), like masks, in all care areas within our facilities.

Updated Self-Assessment Criteria

As the Government of Ontario seeks to have more people tested for COVID-19, their online self-assessment tool has been updated to include more symptoms, such as hoarse voice, runny nose, loss of sense of taste or smell, headaches, digestive issues, and fatigue. -The self-assessment can be reached at [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://ontario.ca/coronavirus), or you can call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Accessing Regular Care

We appreciate that many people have tried to stay away from hospitals and health care providers while we adapt and prepare for COVID-19, but I want to encourage everyone to seek health care if and when you need it. HHHS and our local health care partners have been working diligently to ensure that we can manage the COVID-19 pandemic while still providing high-quality health care services to the community. Please do not ignore any health issues you may be having, and seek regular care when needed.

Take care,

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

Carolyn Plummer
President & CEO