

Weekly Community Update

Week of May 1, 2020

Dear friends and neighbours of Haliburton County,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into a new month and there are positive signs of the curve flattening in Ontario, it is now even more important that we keep up our efforts to protect the health and safety of our community. We cannot afford to become complacent, even as we recognize the toll that physical distancing and other measures are having on our mental health and wellbeing.

It is important that you know there are many local organizations and individuals working to provide support services for you at this time, and to reach out if you need assistance. For a list of supports and services in the community, as well as mental health supports, please visit www.haliburtoncares.ca

Seeking Care When You Need It

I also want to emphasize an important part of my message from last week, which is the importance of seeking health care when you need it.

HHHS and our local health care partners have worked diligently to ensure we can manage the COVID-19 pandemic while still providing safe and high-quality health care services to the community. We have implemented a number of measures to keep everyone safe and significantly reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between patients in the Emergency Departments and Acute Care, including screening all patients, staff, and essential visitors before entry to our facilities, providing masks to all patients and essential visitors for use in our facilities once they pass the initial screening, and use of masks and other Personal Protective Equipment by staff in all areas where they may be in contact with patients or long-term care residents.

If you need care, but you have or suspect you might have COVID-19 symptoms, call ahead to HHHS or other health care facilities to alert them of your symptoms. In case of an emergency, call 911 and alert the dispatcher to their symptoms.

Proactive Testing in Long-Term Care

Last week, I also mentioned that we were going to be moving forward with the testing of every Long-Term Care resident and staff member, as well as any staff who work on the Long-Term Care side of our facilities, regardless of whether they were showing any symptoms of COVID-19. We have completed the testing, as mandated by the Ontario government, this week. It will help us identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19, as well as help the Province better understand its spread in Long-Term Care homes.

We are looking at this testing as strictly one “snapshot in time” and even if all tests are negative, we will not relax our diligent work to protect all residents, including through physical distancing and handwashing, twice-daily screening of staff and residents, and the wearing of masks in our facilities.

Take care,



Carolyn Plummer
President & CEO