

## **Weekly Community Update**

*Week of May 15, 2020*

Dear friends and neighbours of Haliburton County

This week's update includes some of the good news we've been able to share with you this week, an important change in our guidance to the community about accessing our Emergency Departments, and some reflections as we close out Nursing Week on Sunday, May 17.

### **Surveillance Testing of LTC Residents & Staff**

We were very excited to share that the results of the surveillance testing of all Long-Term Care residents and all HHHS staff came back 100% negative. While this is just one 'picture in time' and our staff know that we cannot relax our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, it does also show the impact of all of the work they have been doing over the past two months to protect themselves, their colleagues, our residents, and the community.

### **Emergency Department Access**

As of Wednesday, May 13, HHHS updated its guidance to the community on accessing our Emergency Departments. The Haliburton Emergency Department is now open to accept all emergency and urgent care needs, including for those who have COVID-19 symptoms. The Minden Emergency Department remains open to accept all emergency and urgent care needs, but those with COVID-19 symptoms should expect to be re-directed to the Haliburton Emergency Department.

Everyone is reminded to call 911 in the case of an emergency, and if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, to alert the dispatcher of your symptoms. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, but do not require emergency or urgent care, please complete the self-assessment online at [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://ontario.ca/coronavirus) or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. Those requiring testing will be directed to the Haliburton County COVID-19 Community Assessment Centre in order to schedule an appointment. More information is also available on [www.haliburtoncares.ca](http://www.haliburtoncares.ca)

### **National Nursing Week**

This week, we have been celebrating and recognizing the amazing, year-round work of our nursing and staff teams. It is hard to find the words to express how proud I am of what they have accomplished and how grateful I am for all they are doing amid the stress, anxiety, uncertainty of the current pandemic situation. Nurses, along with other direct care providers, care for people when they are at their most vulnerable, bearing witness to suffering and loss as well as moments of joy. Nurses work together with other staff members as part of a team, and they are supported by many others as well; this is why, during Nursing Week, we celebrate nurses as well as all members of our team – as we are all in this together, caring together for our community.

Take care,



Carolyn Plummer  
President & CEO