



Weekly Community Update

Week of June 12, 2020

Dear friends and neighbours of Haliburton County,

HHHS is once again adapting to meet the needs of our patients, residents, and community members in a safe and responsive way.

Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)

As specialty clinics ramp-up services across the province, many of our community members are being called in for out-of-town appointments. HHHS would like to remind the community of the valuable role OTN can play in their care. Part of Ontario's publicly-funded health care system, virtual care through the OTN ensures that everyone has easy access to the best possible care when and where they need it. This is especially valuable for rural communities such as ours with limited transportation options and excessive commutes to larger centres. Patients are connected to the physician using video conferencing and tele-diagnostics. The clinic is supported by a nurse who works with patients and doctors to ensure all of the required information is provided to make the most of your appointment time. Privacy is provided and ensured during your visit.

In an effort to increase accessibility and use of OTN, the HHHS main clinic site has been moved to a new space in the Minden Hospital site. If you think OTN is a good choice for you, please discuss this option with your physician. Patients can talk to their doctor about accessing these care options and can visit www.otn.ca/patients or call HHHS OTN office 705 457-1392 x2365 for more information.

Physiotherapy services

In support of non-urgent surgical procedures being started at regional partner hospitals, the HHHS physiotherapy team will begin to see patients based on risk and priority. In order to adhere to proper social distancing practices and ensure the safety of staff and patients, the service has been relocated to the HHHS Minden Auditorium and the clinic will be functioning at a reduced volume. The team has reached out to patients who had previously been placed on hold or on a waitlist; they are currently accepting new referrals and will see their first patients early next week. HHHS is glad to see this enthusiastic team and important service back in action.

Long Term Care Visiting

We were pleased yesterday when the Premier released the news that our residents will finally be reunited with their loved ones in our long-term care homes, Highland Wood and Hyland Crest. We have worked diligently to keep our residents and staff safe during the Pandemic. While excited and relieved, we must remain diligent with planning to ensure this is done in the safest possible way for everyone.

All visitors must adhere to strict guidelines before meeting with relatives residing in LTC homes and we are working now on obtaining further clarification on these guidelines as well as developing policy and process that aligns with the direction we have received from the Ministry. We look forward to sharing further updates with families in the next few days.



Take care,

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

Carolyn Plummer
President & CEO