



Biweekly Community Update

Week of July 17, 2020

Dear friends and neighbours of Haliburton County,

Over the past two weeks, there have been a few changes made to our on-going COVID-19 response at HHHS and I'd like to share these with you today.

HHHS has been reviewing the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Hospital Association regarding family and caregiver visitations of their loved ones who are in Acute Care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to balance the need to protect the health and safety of our patients and health care workers, while considering the physical, social, and emotional well-being of patients, their families, and caregivers.

HHHS is finalizing a new 'Care Partner' policy that will allow for limited visits of Acute Care patients by people (family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, and community members) who provide important personal, social, psychological and physical support. Care Partners will be required to pass COVID-19 screening prior to entry to the hospital, and will need to follow a number of protocols, similar to those in place for visitors to Long-Term Care residents. HHHS will make this information available to the community once it has been finalized, as well as to anyone who wishes to visit a patient in acute care.

Patients and their loved ones should keep in mind that HHHS does have a Virtual Visit Program in place while visitor restrictions are in place, and staff can assist with connecting people over the internet as well as using hospital devices and technology platforms.

HHHS is also planning to safely move patients from our Acute Care unit in Minden back to Haliburton on Tuesday, July 21, 2020. This new unit at our Minden site was created in early April to help decrease the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between patients as well as increase our bed capacity so that HHHS would be prepared for a possible surge of COVID-19 positive patients.

HHHS will still be able to maintain separation of suspect or diagnosed COVID-19 positive patients from others in the Acute Care unit in Haliburton. We are working diligently to ensure that the space in Haliburton and our processes will continue to maintain the highest standards of patient safety.

We are extremely proud of all of our HHHS staff and managers who were able to quickly adapt an unconventional space, while providing the same excellence in quality patient care. By moving the Acute Care unit back to Haliburton, HHHS will be able to make additional improvements to the space and equipment available at the Minden site, so we can be prepared to safely return to Minden if required at a later date.



Finally, I want to take a moment to send my deep thanks to all of the workers who continue to serve our community in countless ways through the COVID-19 pandemic. Health care workers and other front-line staff across Haliburton County have been performing their duties under a great deal of stress, and I know how much their work is appreciated by everyone in our community. If you are working on the front-lines or supporting someone who is, or even if you are not directly involved, please keep in mind there are many resources available to support your mental health and wellbeing – a comprehensive list is available at <https://www.haliburtoncares.ca/#mhSupports>.

Take care,

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

Carolyn Plummer
President & CEO