The latest on our efforts against COVID-19

Non-urgent service volumes at or close to pre-pandemic levels, limited in-person visiting reinstated on weekends/holidays with virtual options to be sustained for foreseeable future

Services returning to pre-pandemic levels

The Service Continuity and Planning Working Group continues to gradually return Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) to pre-pandemic service levels for the majority of non-urgent surgeries, procedures and tests while also balancing the new requirements of COVID-19.

Surgical services are now at 90% of pre-COVID-19 activity at NHH (with colonoscopies, cataract surgery and selected gynecological procedures all resumed). Diagnostic imaging procedures are now at 75% of pre-COVID-19 activity, including CT exams, MRIs, ultrasonography, x-ray, mammography, nuclear medicine and interventional radiology procedures, like joint injections and pain management and, most recently, bone mineral densitometry and interventional radiology. In-person ambulatory care clinic appointments have resumed where alternate virtual options are not available and in-person community mental health appointments through the Walk-In Counselling Clinic at 1011 Elgin Street West, Cobourg, are continuing to be increased alongside the virtual counselling service that was initiated when the pandemic was announced.

"With Ontario now in Stage 3 of its reopening framework, we are, effectively, 'open' as a province," said Linda Davis, President and CEO. "Schools are set to resume in September, visitors are coming into and through the community, and more and more interaction with people outside our immediate households is occurring. Now is the time to be even more vigilant about following public health advice."

Public health officials are urging everyone to help minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 by continuing to:

- Maintain physical distance from others (6 feet or 2 metres).
- Wear a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge, not possible or required.
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Download COVID Alert, the new made-in-Ontario app that alerts users if they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

"While many provincial restrictions have been relaxed, and we are all pleased to move forward into a 'new normal' state, NHH is closely monitoring the slow but continued rise in confirmed cases in our region." said Davis. "A total of 31 individuals from Northumberland and Prince Edward West, Cobourg, are continuing to be increased alongside the virtual counselling service that was initiated when the pandemic was announced."

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