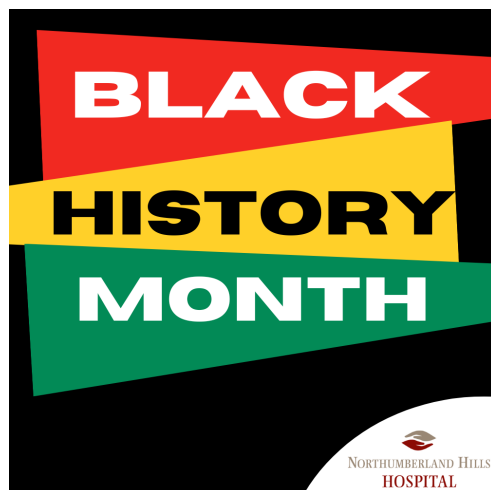


Black History Month activities recognized at NHH

Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is commemorating Black History Month with a number of activities planned throughout the month of February.

Flying now alongside the Canadian flag, the Black Lives Matter flag is one of several activities recommended by NHH's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDIAC) to advance conversation, awareness, and understanding about systemic Black racism and its harmful impact on the experience of providers, patients, and caregivers alike throughout the broader health care system.



During the month of February, NHH's EDIAC is coordinating a variety of activities for staff, physicians, midwives, and volunteers to explore—through written material, lunch-and-learns, a speaker-led talk by Dr. Roberta Timothy, and training opportunities—timely issues related to Black racism while, at the same time, increasing awareness about the contributions made by Black people to the field of modern medicine.

"NHH's new Shared Purpose is People First. To honour this bold statement, we must acknowledge that racism, including Black racism, still exists in everyday life, including the health care sector," said Susan Walsh, President and CEO.

"It's critical to recognize the harmful impact that discrimination has on patients, caregivers, and health care providers alike who are marginalized by racism. Dismantling complex racial barriers is very much a work in progress, even in Canada. Flying the Black Lives Matter flag is one of many small steps that NHH is taking to reinforce the point that, like many organizations, we still have work to do before we can say we are truly equitable and inclusive. We are committed to listening, learning, and advocating for the delivery of safe, equitable care for all, and we are grateful to be part of a community that stands united in its commitment to continue working for equity, for all."

COVID-19 outbreak declared over - Regular visiting guidelines resume on Inpatient Rehabilitation and Restorative

The COVID-19 outbreak on NHH's first floor has been declared over. The outbreak was initially identified on Inpatient Rehabilitation (1A) on January 24 and on the adjacent Restorative Care (1B) unit on January 25.

Regular visiting guidelines have resumed for all with the exception of patients in isolation for a COVID-19 infection or suspected exposure.

For more information, see the related news release published on February 3 on www.nhh.ca.

Two Geneticists welcomed to NHH medical team

NHH is pleased to announce the recruitment of two Geneticists, Dr. Shawn Shao, MD, CM, PhD, FRCPC and Dr. Vanda McNiven, MD, MSc, FRCPC.

Dr. Shao is a staff geneticist at North York General Hospital. He completed medical school at McGill University and residency in Medical Genetics and Genomics at the University of Toronto.



Dr. Vanda McNiven is currently a staff Geneticist in the Division of Clinical Genetics at the Hospital for Sick Children as well as a

Clinical Associate in Clinical Genetics at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University Health Network in Toronto.

With the support of NHH's Telemedicine Coordinator, Registered Nurse Rebecca Rutherford, Dr. McNiven, and Dr. Shao will support local primary care providers and specialists by offering virtual genetics consultations for reasons including, but not limited to, intellectual disabilities, autism, multiple congenital anomalies, and suspected genetic types of neurological, cardiovascular, endocrine, and ocular conditions. Previously all local residents requiring genetic consultations had to travel out of town with wait times that could be up to a year.

Referring providers are invited to complete the NHH Clinical Telemedicine Consult Request available on the hospital's website. Patients will be scheduled and notified by the NHH OTN nurse. For a list of virtual services being offered through NHH, visit www.nhh.ca.

