

Everyone knows an exceptional nurse – THANK YOU for helping to boost spirits with your wonderful virtual postcards!

National Nursing Week is celebrated annually across the country from the Monday to the Sunday of the same week as Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12.

The theme this year, developed by the Canadian Nurses' Association, is #WeAnswerTheCall, a great descriptor to highlight the many roles that nurses play in a patient (and family's) health-care journey.

In this, our second National Nursing Week celebration in a global pandemic, we are honouring the courage and commitment nurses bring to their work every day, and we are so grateful for our community's participation! To recognize the important contribution of nurses who continue to "answer the call" throughout the hospital, and say thanks for all they do, we invited submissions of short, virtual postcards through our general NHH email in-box (info@nhh.ca) or our NHH and NHH Foundation social media channels, using the hashtag #IKnowANurse. Below are just a few of the many wonderful tributes received from individuals, grade school classrooms and more!

There is still time to submit! We're sharing your stories throughout Nursing Week with the individuals and teams recognized and on our NHH and NHH Foundation social feeds. THANK YOU for taking time to help boost the spirits of those who 'answer the call'!



"#IKnowANurse"

In fact, I know several nurses. I would like to honour the nurses in the Cancer Care unit for their exceptional dedication to their job. I am a volunteer in Cancer Care and I see first hand how hard they work and how compassionate they are with their patients. Thank you for all you do!"

"Thank you to all of the Nurses at Northumberland Hills Hospital. You are appreciated for all that you do on a regular basis, but even more so during Covid. Thank you for your kindness, your caring and your compassion. You have always been there to take care of our families in our time of need. We wish you the strength to see you through these difficult times, and no matter how tough it gets, please remember WE CARE ABOUT YOU TOO!! A Special Shoutout to the ICU Staff and our favourite nurse 😊"

"We aren't fully aware of the sacrifices you all make during normal circumstances... and when the time comes for you to double down for us, you do it with no questions... Thank you so much! You are appreciated more than you know! Hugs and prayers are for you every moment... stay safe and healthy!!
#IKnowANurse"

Remote monitoring process implemented at NHH to assist COVID-positive patients in the community

In collaboration with Home and Community Care Support Services Central East and Northumberland Paramedics, Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) has implemented a care pathway that extends support beyond the hospital's walls to proactively monitor and assist COVID-positive patients in the community and enhance the sharing of information in the event their condition worsens at home and hospitalization is required.



Led by NHH Chief of Staff Dr. Mukesh Bhargava and a small Community Escalation Team of area family physicians (Drs. Mark Essak, Erin Pepper and Fraser Cameron), the process also hinges on the support of a team of Home and Community Support nurses, NHH Infection Prevention and Control and the NHH COVID-19 Assessment Centre.

All COVID-positive patients diagnosed in the NHH COVID-19 Assessment Centre or Emergency Department but deemed well enough for discharge home are now automatically invited to consent to participate in the voluntary remote monitoring program.

Upon consent, referrals are automatically sent to Home and Community Care Support Services for intake and set up of internet-enabled oxygen monitoring and remote surveillance. In cases where individuals are not able to enable virtual monitoring (the tools work in tandem with a smart phone or tablet) a telephone-based monitoring process is established.

Cathy Slevin, Senior Manager, Clinical Care Programs, Home and Community Care Support Services Central East (formerly the Central East LHIN) describes the NHH process as simple for both the patient to use and the nurses on the Home and Community Care Support Services team to administer.

"The process NHH has set up ... allows us to reach out as soon as a patient is identified, and get the remote monitoring quickly in place. Essentially, an app is installed through a link we send to the patient via email or text. This app triggers an automated prompt, twice a day, requiring the patient to answer 5 or 6 questions. Are you experiencing increased shortness of breath? Has your cough worsened? Is your temperature elevated? The questions typically take no more than 5 minutes for the patient to complete and submit. The nurse receives the responses in real time, reviews and, if any concerns, such as oxygen levels lower than the acceptable norm, reaches out. The nurse can text the patient directly through the app, or call the patient by phone.

The remote monitoring serves as a community-based early-warning system in the event a patient deteriorates swiftly, while the intake and tracking establish a point of contact to support a smooth handoff to the NHH Escalation Team or Emergency Department, should the patient's condition require urgent hospital re-assessment or admission. Northumberland County's Community Paramedicine program is another resource the team can draw on, should urgent support be required in the patient's home, but to date, this has not been required.

For full details see the related media release at nhh.ca.

NHH Board call for interest, Community Members

The NHH Board of Directors is currently recruiting individuals interested in serving on the Board as Community Members. This is an exciting opportunity to provide strategic direction and oversight to the Hospital management team.

Community Members meet for two-four hours, approximately 10-12 times a year. Currently these meetings are being held virtually, via Zoom, with in-person meetings planned to resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

NHH is committed to inclusivity, equity and access. To ensure the NHH Board reflects the diverse populations it serves, applications are encouraged from people of any age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity and/or national origin.

For details on how to express your interest to the Nominating Committee please see the full advertisement on nhh.ca or the hospital's social media feeds. Applications are due by Friday, May 28th. Questions? Please email sconnell@nhh.ca.