



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Local Business Steps Up to Offer Accommodation for NHH Staff

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY – Northumberland Heights Wellness Retreat and Spa has generously stepped up to support Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) during the COVID-19 pandemic by offering to temporarily house staff and physicians at no cost. NHH has been coordinating with this local business to provide staff and physicians with ready access to alternative housing arrangements during the pandemic should they require them.

Like many healthcare and first responder organizations in the province, NHH began looking into alternative housing opportunities close to NHH in late March to support local staff and physicians.

Northumberland Heights Wellness Retreat and Spa was quick to step forward and generously offer access to housing at no cost. Access to short-term accommodation opportunities has since been offered to core Critical Care and Emergency Department staff and physicians who might be challenged with working extra-long hours, having a long commute home, and working consecutive days/shifts. In addition, these housing alternatives have also been offered to staff and physicians from these and other departments who would feel more comfortable staying in a location other than their residence after shifts due to family situations and concerns.

“We’d like to join all Canadians in expressing our gratitude to frontline staff and in particular, NHH, for their passionate and hard work at this difficult time,” explains Co-Founder of Northumberland Heights Wellness Retreat and Spa, Heena Sehgal, when asked what inspired them to make this generous offer. “After working long hours, we hope the added comfort and convenience will help strengthen the hands that are doing so much for so many of us.”

A process has been in place at NHH for staff and physicians to request the alternative accommodations through Human Resources since early April. At this time, as NHH has not seen the high COVID-19 critical care patient volumes that some other hospitals have, the uptake for alternative accommodations amongst staff and physicians has remained low. These options remain in place should needs arise.

“We are very grateful to Northumberland Heights Wellness Retreat and Spa for helping us plan for the worst,” shares Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO. “At this point, we have thankfully only had to take advantage of the generous offer for a small number of individuals. We remain hopeful that we will never need to use the full complement of accommodation options that have been so generously made

available to us, but we are certainly relieved to know this help is available should we need it. The risks posed by COVID-19 are not behind us yet.”

For the latest information on NHH’s response to COVID-19 as well as links to local and provincial resources, please visit: www.nhh.ca/covid-19.

For more information on how you can make a gift to support NHH through the NHH Foundation, please visit: www.nhhfoundation.ca.

-30-

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About Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation – The mission of the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation is to inspire generous giving to enable exceptional patient care at Northumberland Hills Hospital. With a dedicated team of enthusiastic volunteers and staff, the NHH Foundation is passionately committed to improving health care and the quality of life for people living in west Northumberland. Since 2002, the NHH Foundation has raised over \$57 million to build and equip Northumberland Hills Hospital. This support comes from generous community support through a variety of programs including major gifts, planned giving, signature and third party events, direct mail and commemorative giving. For more information, visit: www.nhhfoundation.ca or [like us on Facebook](#).

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](#).