## NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

**NEWS RELEASE/PUBLIC NOTICE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Visitor restrictions in place at NHH – Thank you for your understanding**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Sunday, March 15, 2020 —** Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) has made the difficult decision to limit visitors in light of the evolving situation regarding COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective today all patients, both in the Emergency Department and on our in-patient wards, will be permitted one visitor at a time. Special considerations will be made on a case-by-case basis for palliative and other patients with special needs; in those cases we highly recommend that children under the age of 16 not visit.

Previously scheduled events, such as the Northumberland PACE lecture series, as well as volunteer activities are in the process of being cancelled.

Community drivers play an essential role in supporting patients coming to/from appointments. We will look to our partners in the community to continue to support this service, as they are able, and community drivers supporting patients coming into the facility for care will be permitted as required.

Information is changing swiftly. To remain up to date on the latest news from NHH we ask that you monitor our www.nhh.ca website. We are updating our COVID-19 section daily and will continue to do so together with our other usual communication channels.

"We appreciate that visitor restrictions will pose difficulties for many of our patients. This is a necessary step at this time and we hope that it will be short in duration. NHH appreciates the important role that visitors play in patients' care journeys and we look forward to 'bending the curve' of COVID-19 with actions like these. Thank you for your cooperation and support to our care teams at this time."

For the most recent provincial information on COVID-19, including symptoms to watch for and the status of cases in Ontario, see Ontario's dedicated COVID website: ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus or the local Public Health website at https://www.hkpr.on.ca/. Answers to frequently asked questions and links to additional resources will be found on NHH's dedicated COVID-19 page: NHH.ca/COVID-19

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**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.

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