



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE/PUBLIC NOTICE

Single positive case of COVID-19 confirmed among NHH staff – risk of exposure considered low

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, November 11, 2020 – A

Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) staff member has tested positive for COVID-19.

The individual, who was working in the hospital on Thursday and Friday PM, November 5 and 6, and in the early morning of Monday, November 9, is at home on self-isolation. It is expected that the case will also be reflected in area public health reporting later today.

“Our Occupational Health and Safety office is working closely with their local public health colleagues and regional infectious disease experts to minimize any risk,” said Linda Davis, President and CEO. “The risk of exposure is considered low. Case and contact tracing is now completed and no other COVID-19 cases have been detected among the patient population or hospital team at this time. Inpatients, staff and physicians who may have come into contact with the individual are now in the process of being notified by NHH with instructions to self-monitor for any symptoms and, as directed, self-isolate and seek testing. A small number of inpatients have been isolated as a precaution and enhanced cleaning of the areas of the hospital where the individual was working has been completed. It remains safe to attend the hospital for care as required.”

Staff members and physicians at the hospital continue to ensure strict adherence to appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), to stay home from work if feeling ill and to seek testing as appropriate.

There are no changes to the [NHH COVID-19 Visitor Policy](#) at present and there are no changes to service delivery. The situation is being monitored closely and any changes to services or visitor guidelines will be implemented and communicated as required.

NHH urges everyone to help minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 by continuing to:

- Maintain physical distance from others outside your immediate household (6 feet or 2 metres)
- Wear a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge, not possible or required (for information on how to put on, remove and clean a non-medical face mask, [see Health Canada recommendations here](#)).
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Always wash your hands before eating or drinking, after using the

- washroom, if your hands become visibly dirty and before and after you put on and take off a face mask
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 - Download [COVID Alert](#), the made-in-Ontario app that will alert users if they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. [Apple users may download here](#), [Android users go here](#)

Patients or family members with questions are encouraged to contact a member of their care team directly or to reach out to the NHH Public Affairs office at the phone number and email address below.

Contact: Jennifer Gillard, Senior Director, Public Affairs and Partnerships, 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

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 Ontario Health (East) – formerly the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Facebook [@northumberlandhillshosp](https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandhillshosp) or Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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