



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NHH preparing for high patient volumes over Canada Day weekend as surge continues, visitor population increases and temperatures rise

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, June 28th, 2016—Staff and physicians in Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) are preparing for a busier than usual Canada Day weekend.

“We are preparing for increased patient volumes insofar as we are able,” said NHH’s President and CEO Linda Davis. “The team has been working very hard to manage a recurrent patient surge situation (higher than normal patient volumes) which started for us in May. We understand that this surge is regional in nature, but, locally, the Canada Day long weekend is expected to put added pressure on NHH. While we are committed to ensuring appropriate staffing to support all of our services, we are also encouraging our community to seek alternate arrangements for non-urgent care, where possible.”

Patients are reminded to:

- seek alternate health-care options for non-urgent conditions over the Canada Day long weekend other than the local Emergency Department, where possible (see below); and
- see their family physician or nurse practitioner before the holiday to ensure all necessary prescriptions are renewed and other non-urgent concerns are addressed.

“We appreciate that, for some, there is no alternative to the ED,” said Davis. These individuals and, obviously, those in a true emergency situation are our priorities. If your situation is not urgent, please use the alternate health-care options first (family physician, area walk-in clinic, Telehealth Ontario), this long weekend and at any time during the year. If there is any doubt of the urgency of your situation, or that of a loved one, of course, do not hesitate to come to the NHH Emergency Department. By working together with our community and provincial partners our Emergency Department and acute care service will always be here and available for those who need it most.”

Alternate options to the NHH ED

For alternate options for medical care please contact your family physician’s office or go to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Your Health Care Options website, www.ontario.ca/healthcareoptions. Among the local options listed is the Port Hope Walk-in Clinic at 249 Ontario Street in Port Hope. Open Monday through Friday 11am-5pm, and Saturday through Sunday, 9:30am-4pm, the Clinic is closed on Friday, July 1 (Canada Day).

Free access to a Registered Nurse is also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Telehealth Ontario service. Contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or (TTY): 1-866-797-0007.

“We thank all our patients and their caregivers for their support,” said Davis. “Northumberland Hills Hospital is committed to delivering the highest possible patient care.”

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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](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).