

February 23, 2010

Media Release: For immediate release

G&M Hospital Closes Unit to Visitors Due to Gastro Outbreak

Collingwood, ON

This afternoon, Collingwood G&M Hospital, in consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, confirmed a gastrointestinal outbreak on the Medical Unit (first floor). Eight patients have symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. No new patients will be admitted to the unit and no patients from the unit will be transferred to other areas of the hospital.

To reduce spread of this illness, the unit is now closed to all visitors. In addition, visitor Restrictions which are currently in place throughout the G&M Hospital to reduce the spread of common seasonal illnesses will remain in effect to keep our patients, visitors, staff, physicians and volunteers in good health.

“We understand that closing the unit to visitors is very difficult for patients as they rely on the support of family and friends when hospitalized,” says Norah Holder, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer. “However, in order to quickly contain and control this outbreak, it is essential that we stop the flow of people going in and out of our Medical unit.”

The Hospital is working with the Provincial Lab to identify this illness; however most people have been experiencing one to three days of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

In accordance with the G&M’s strict infection prevention and control measures, additional Housekeeping, education and precautions have been put into place on the unit. The Hospital will work with families who have compassionate reasons for coming to the Medical unit. The G&M encourages family and friends to keep in touch with patients via telephone and one time phone charges for a Hospital stay on the Medical Unit during this time frame will be waived.

Outpatient services (including Diagnostic Imaging and Ambulatory Care clinics) remain open at this time, however if anyone is ill for any reason, they are being asked to refrain from coming to the Hospital.

If you have any questions about this release please contact Norah Holder, Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital at 444.8601, ext. 8202.

Collingwood G&M Hospital (G&M) is a 72-bed hospital located in Collingwood, Ontario (approximately 90 minutes north of Toronto) that serves more than 60,000 permanent residents and 2.5 Million annual visitors to the communities of Wasaga Beach, Collingwood, Stayner, Creemore and the Blue Mountains. The G&M is an acute care hospital providing emergency care, diagnostic services including lab, imaging and cardio respiratory therapy, as well as two inpatient units (medicine and surgery). In addition, the G&M also provides care in speciality areas including obstetrics, orthopaedics, intensive care and surgery. The Hospital also provides out patient care including dialysis and a wide range of clinics including mental health and rehabilitation services. The G&M continues to provide care close to home for our community and plays a key role as an integrated orthopaedic centre for our region. For more information please visit our website at www.cgmh.on.ca and our Foundation website at www.cgmhf.com

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