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G&M Hospital Outbreak Over – Visitor Restrictions Remain in Effect

(Collingwood, ON)

The G&M Hospital's Outbreak Management Team (OMT) in consultation with Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit announced this morning that the recent outbreak of Norwalk Virus (gastrointestinal illness) in the Hospital's Medical Unit is now over.

The Medical Unit (first floor inpatient area) is now open to visitors but visiting restrictions remain in effect. Each inpatient will be allowed one adult visitor at any time between 1 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. No children under age 18 are allowed to visit inpatients.

"The visiting restrictions are still necessary because we know that there is a high incidence of this illness in our community," says Dr. Mark Quigg, Chair of the Infection, Prevention & Control Committee. "The ongoing visiting restrictions will help us to limit the transmission of this illness to our patients including newborns and delivering mothers, staff and visitors."

Norah Holder, VP of Patient Services & Chief Nursing Officer commends those involved in containing the outbreak. "We are grateful to our staff and physicians for their quick containment of this virus and their ongoing vigilance and support. Once again, Public Health was able to guide us through this outbreak to limit exposure to our patients and staff."

"We all appreciate the support of our community in adhering to these visitor restrictions," says G&M Chief of Staff, Dr. Anne Engell. "We realize that it is difficult for patients' families when they cannot visit but the health and safety of our patients must come first."

The public is being asked to refrain from visiting patients at the G&M if they are ill for any reason. Those who have been ill should wait at least 48 hours after the last symptoms disappear before visiting the Hospital. The best defense against any virus is careful and vigorous hand washing.

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