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Media Release: For immediate release

G&M Hospital “Open as Usual” but Medical Unit Remains Closed to Visitors and Volunteers

Collingwood, ON

With excellent education, protection and prevention measures in place at the Collingwood G&M Hospital, staff, physicians and volunteers have done a wonderful job dealing with an intestinal illness contained on the Medical Unit.

As of Thursday, Feb. 25th, 12 patients on the Medical Unit are in isolation due to a gastrointestinal (enteric) illness. “Our teams have done an excellent job working hard at protecting patients and themselves from contracting this virus. We applaud our staff, physicians and volunteers. One of the best and most effective ways to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses is diligent practice of hand hygiene,” says VP Patient Services Norah Holder.

The Hospital remains open to emergency patients, people with medical appointments and visitors to other areas of the Hospital with the current visiting restrictions of one adult visitor and no children under 18. Dr. Quigg, Chair of the Infection, Prevention and Control Team at the Hospital says, “Like at any other time, if you are not feeling well, please do not visit patients at the Hospital. If you have an appointment at the Hospital and have symptoms of flu, colds or vomiting and diarrhea, please reschedule your appointment by calling 705.445.2550.”

Infection, Prevention and Control Coordinator Loretta Urban-Kew advises, “This illness spreads rapidly so the best way to keep well is to wash or sanitize your hands frequently and also clean surfaces with disinfectant. This virus enters our bodies most often through our eyes, nose and mouth, so get in the habit of cleaning your hands after you touch something that may be contaminated. This is an easy way to stay well when bugs like this are out in our community.” Patients with this illness have symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The Hospital is awaiting lab results on the identity of this illness.

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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 705.444.8601, 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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