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Media Release: For immediate release

## UPDATE: G&M Hospital Gastro Outbreak

Collingwood, ON

The gastrointestinal outbreak situation at the G&M Hospital has significantly improved. While the Medical Unit (first floor in patient area) remains closed to visitors and volunteers, the number of patients in isolation has dropped to seven (from fourteen). This improvement is due to the excellent work of staff, physicians and volunteers and the cooperation of all visitors who have been practicing excellent hand hygiene and respecting the extra visiting restrictions.

“We are hopeful that additional patients will be taken off isolation in the near future. We will let our communities know when our outbreak is over,” says VP Patient Care Norah Holder.

“This type of gastrointestinal illness is present outside the Hospital in our communities. The Norwalk Virus has been isolated in two of our cases so far. We are still awaiting lab results for the other tests that have been sent to Toronto for review,” says Loretta Urban-Kew, Infection Prevention & Control Coordinator.

The Hospital reminds the community that the best prevention for communicable illness is vigorous and frequent hand washing or sanitizing. If someone in your household is ill with symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea and nausea, ensure they have plenty of clear fluids (i.e. water or apple juice), keep them resting at home and ensure you clean all affected areas with disinfectant (i.e. toilets, door knobs, counters). Wash sheets and towels in hot water. This particular type of virus usually lasts between 1-3 days. If the patient is not feeling better after 48 hours, seek medical attention with your health care provider. In Simcoe County you can call Your Health Connection at 721.7520 or 1.877.721.7520 or visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) when you have questions or concerns about your health.

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### NOTE TO MEDIA: Information sheet on Norwalk Virus Attached.

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](http://www.cgmh.on.ca) and our Foundation website at [www.cgmhf.com](http://www.cgmhf.com)

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