

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 BULLETIN

Monday, March 16, 2020

SCREENING OF ALL PEOPLE ENTERING HDS

Hotel Dieu Shaver (HDS) continues to be a safe place to receive care, and we continue to take extra precautions as part of our COVID-19 prevention measures. Subject to modifications that will be communicated, we will continue to operate our normal practices.

As of Monday, **March 16 at noon, we will begin in-person screening of all people** entering our facility, including patients and their visitors/families, staff, volunteers, and contractors.

Screening will involve a questionnaire, and corresponding actions, to ensure the health and safety of all.

RESTRICTION OF VISITORS AND VISITING HOURS

We will also begin implementing visitor restrictions:

- Visiting hours will be restricted to **10 a.m. – 7 p.m.**
- Visitors will be restricted to **one visitor per patient at a time**. Exceptions will be identified for palliative patients.
- Visitors will be asked to limit their movement on the units and remain in patient rooms as much as possible.
- Outpatient doors will be locked for entry at 4 p.m.
- **Pet visitation has been suspended.**

RESTRICTION OF ENTRANCES AND STAFF PARKING

To manage in-person screening, access to HDS will be restricted to **two entrances**:

1. Front door of inpatient building.
2. Front door of outpatient building.

All other entrances will be locked.

To facilitate easy access to the front entrances, **we ask that all staff park in the back lot and walk to the front to enter**. Please keep in mind that while it may be an inconvenience for some, we are trying to retain a quality experience for visitors to our site as well as preserve the health and safety for all in our HDS community.

TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF CANADA

To enable infection control, all staff, physicians, patient advisors and volunteers are reminded that the Government of Canada has advised against international travel (travel outside of Canada.) For clarification, international travel includes the United States.

This restriction will help limit the travel-related infection spread and ensures that our HDS team members are available and can be relied upon to immediately respond should the situation or associated human resource needs escalate.

Also of note, as indicated in the last bulletin dated March 13, there may be implications for returning to Canada at the border and/or via commercial flights. You may be denied re-entry to Canada and may incur costs to repatriate. Also, your Green Shield travel benefit coverages (or any other travel insurance you may have) may be jeopardized.

RETURNING FROM TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF CANADA

For those **returning from China, Italy, Iran or cruise ship travel**, please contact HDS Occupational Health at extension 84211. Also, to ensure accurate regional records, to document the situation within Niagara, please contact Public Health at (905) 688-3762 or after-hours (905) 984-3690 or the Health Connection Line, (905) 688-8248.

All others **returning from travel anywhere outside of Canada, including the United States**, and returning on or after 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, please contact Occupational Health at extension 84211 so that your individual circumstances may be assessed prior to returning to work.

BOOKED VACATION

We recognize the current COVID-19 situation may impact your vacation time and present challenges regarding childcare arrangements in some cases. We kindly ask that employees make alternate arrangements for childcare as we must deliver vital services to the community and our patients. To continue to provide safe patient care, **we depend on each other to report to work as scheduled.**

At a time in which the World Health Organization has declared a global pandemic, and with the rising number of cases in Ontario, there is an even greater need for our hospital employees to report to work.

For those who are cancelling booked vacation, **please notify your manager immediately** (as soon as possible with a preferred minimum of 72 hours' notice.)

We realize some employees may now be in a position to carry over maximums due to vacation cancellations caused by COVID-19. Vacation hours not used during the 2019/2020 vacation year will be banked for employees to use at a later date.

OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to keeping our patients and each other safe.

We continue to monitor the situation with our health partners, taking necessary precautions and planning for any developments.

As we all know, this is a constantly changing situation, and we commit to notifying everyone of changes that affect HDS as soon as we can.

Thanks for your co-operation and dedication.