

HURON PERTH HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2018



Cases Rise in Influenza Outbreak *Seaforth Community Hospital Now in Outbreak Status*

On February 14, 2018 the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) declared an Influenza Outbreak at the Seaforth Community Hospital. This is in addition to the outbreak on the Medicine / Integrated Stroke Unit at the Stratford General Hospital which was declared on February 13, 2018.

“At the Seaforth Community Hospital we’ve had three confirmed cases of hospital-acquired influenza,” says Anne Campbell, Vice President Partnerships and Chief Nursing Executive. “On the Medicine / Integrated Stroke Unit at Stratford General Hospital we now have eight cases.”

Visitors are still welcome at both hospital sites but are asked to follow any posted instructions and are asked to limit their interaction to one patient per visit. Those visiting infected patients will be required to wear a mask, gloves and gown and must discard these before leaving the patient’s room. Visitors should also use the hand sanitizer provided to wash their hands when they enter and leave the hospital and upon entering and leaving the patient’s room. Patient movement on the units has also been limited, for example shared lounges in Seaforth have been closed to stop the spread of the virus.

Visitors are also reminded that if they aren’t feeling well, they should postpone their visit for at least 72 hours after symptoms clear.

“If you are sick we are urging you to reconsider visiting any patients in any areas of our hospitals at this time, unless it is for compassionate or palliative reasons,” adds Campbell. “Staying home will help stop the spread of the flu to people who may be more susceptible to complications.”

The flu shot is the best protection against the flu and is still available through family doctors (for all ages) and select pharmacies (for people aged five and over).

HPHA will continue to update the public, as our information changes or more becomes available.

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