

HURON PERTH HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gastrointestinal Outbreak Continues at Seaforth Community Hospital

The gastrointestinal outbreak which was announced on January 9, 2020 at the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) – Seaforth Community Hospital site continues.

The outbreak has affected the Inpatient Unit and the unit is closed to admissions.

“We have confirmation that we are dealing with a Norovirus outbreak,” says Larry Morrell, Infection Control Practitioner. “Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that can cause diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal discomfort. Norovirus is sometimes referred to as the “stomach flu” but is not related to the influenza virus.”

Visitors are still welcome and are asked to follow any posted instructions and to limit their interaction to one patient per visit. Visitors should 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.

Visitors are also reminded that if they aren’t feeling well, they should postpone their visit for at least 48 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 Morrell. “Staying home will help stop the spread of the virus to people who may be more susceptible to complications.”

Norovirus is currently active in the community. Here are some tips to minimize your risk of becoming infected with the virus.

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often, especially after using the bathroom, changing diapers and before eating or preparing food.
- Thoroughly clean contaminated surfaces, and disinfect using chlorine bleach, especially after an episode of illness.
- After an episode of illness, immediately remove and wash clothing or linens that may be contaminated with the virus (use hot water and soap).
- If you do become infected, avoid contact with others until you are well again, and avoid preparing food while you have symptoms and for the first three days after you recover.
- If you do get norovirus, drink plenty of fluids.

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



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