

HURON PERTH HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HPHA Declares Influenza Outbreak

Medicine Unit at Stratford General Hospital Hit by Influenza Outbreak

The Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) – Stratford General Hospital site has declared an influenza outbreak on the Medicine Unit.

“The outbreak has been called as three of our patients on the unit have tested positive for influenza,” says Larry Morrell, Infection Control Practitioner. “In response to the outbreak we are working closely with Huron Perth Public Health. We have closed the unit to admissions, restricted visitors to two per patient and have put some limitations on staffing for the unit.”

All patients on the unit are currently being offered Tamiflu prophylaxis.

Visitors to the unit are asked to follow proper hand hygiene procedures and are reminded to cough or sneeze into their arm versus their hands. Any visitors not feeling well or experiencing flu-like symptoms (cough, fever, chills, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, and or sneezing) should refrain from visiting until they are feeling better. Exceptions will be made for compassionate grounds or for direct family members of palliative patients.

“With influenza circulating in Huron and Perth communities we’d like to remind the public there are several things that can be done to protect yourself and others becoming sick,” adds Morrell. “Get a flu shot, which is still available from your family doctor and local pharmacies; wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer; if you are not feeling well please stay home and rest; keep commonly touched surfaces clean and cough or sneeze into your sleeve.”

Influenza vaccinations rates for staff, physicians, and students at HPHA are high at 87%.

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

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