



Media Release

Date: February 9, 2018

## **An Influenza Outbreak Declared at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital**

A flu outbreak at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital (TDMH) has placed visiting restrictions at the hospital.

According to TDMH officials, two patients have tested positive for Influenza B and several are showing signs and symptoms of the flu.

In consultation with the Oxford County Public Health Unit, the hospital opted to put in place visitor restrictions for patients on the affected units (1-South and 2-North), except on compassionate grounds. To help prevent further spread of the flu, officials ask anyone not feeling well, particularly with flu-like symptoms, to not visit patients at the hospital at this time.

Flu symptoms include fever, chills, cough, runny nose, stuffy nose, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, extreme weakness and fatigue.

Hospital outbreak control measures have been implemented including:

- Visitors will be asked to wash their hands upon entrance and exit at each of the patient/visitor entrances.
- Hospital is communicating directly with family members related to patients on the affected units.
- Signage will be posted at the facility entrances and affected units.
- Enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfection.

TDMH's Emergency Departments will continue to screen patients for flu-like symptoms upon arrival. Outpatient Clinics and elective services also remain functional. All hospital services are offered as usual in other areas of the hospital.

“As influenza activity continues to increase in our community, it is important to remind everyone to take preventative measures against contracting influenza such as washing hands frequently in soap and warm water, cough and sneeze into your arm, not your hand and it's not too late to still get your annual flu shot,” Julie Ellery, Chief Nursing Executive and Vice President Clinical Services, said in a media release.

For anyone who gets the flu, they are infectious one to three days before symptoms start, and remain infectious until five days after the onset of symptoms.

Sandy Jansen, President and CEO of TDMH said, “This type of outbreak is not uncommon at this time of year. We are taking a number of precautions to keep our team, patients and visitors safe and healthy.”

This situation will be reassessed daily and a decision whether to lift restrictions will be made, at which time further communications will be issued.

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