



LAKE OF THE WOODS DISTRICT HOSPITAL

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Media Release

Lake of the Woods District Hospital

Smoke-Free Property Policy • Effective – January 1, 2018

As per the legislation of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHTLC), Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) will become a smoke-free property on January 1, 2018. A smoke-free property is one where all users can breathe clean air that is free of second-hand smoke, both indoors and outdoors.

As a health care facility, LWDH must provide a safe and healthy environment for patients, visitors, employees, physicians, and volunteers. The new Smoke-Free Property Policy and practice applies to all LWDH properties including the hospital, Power Plant, Community Programs, Old St. Joseph's, the St. Joseph's Health Centre, and the Morningstar Centre.

The new Smoke-Free Property Policy brings an important change to the non-smoking policy that has been in place at LWDH for many years. From now on, smoking will not be allowed anywhere outdoors on hospital grounds, including parking lots, lawns, sidewalks, and within parked vehicles. The smoking ban includes all cigarettes, cigars, pipes, electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, and medical marijuana.

LWDH's Smoke-Free Property policy aims to protect people from exposure to second-hand smoke and to help smokers quit. Visitors and patients arriving at LWDH will be notified of the new policy with internal and external signage, as well as verbally through interactions with hospital staff. Patients who want to quit smoking while admitted to an LWDH service will be provided with access to a smoking cessation program.

The Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) will work with the LWDH to respond to complaints of individuals smoking on LWDH property and can issue fines for offences related to the Smoke Free Ontario Act.

KEY FACTS

- Tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability and death in Canada, resulting in nearly 40,000 premature deaths each year.
- Second-hand smoke is dangerous. It contains toxic chemicals that can cause cancer and several other health problems.
- Patients may be exposing themselves to unnecessary health and safety risks if they decide to leave the hospital property to smoke.
- As of January 1, 2018, 100% of all Ontario hospitals will be entirely smoke-free.

For further information please contact:

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