

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Emergent and urgent surgeries scheduled at LWDH not to be impacted**

*Kenora, ON, April 26, 2021* – Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH), like other hospitals across the Province, continue to respond to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. LWDH is committed to protecting the health and safety of staff, patients, and the community while also addressing the acute care needs of the people we serve.

On April 20th, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, issued an amended Directive #2 which replaced the previous Directive #2 issued on May 26, 2020. The new Directive #2 can be accessed at the link below:

[https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/directives/RH\\_PA\\_professionals.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/directives/RH_PA_professionals.pdf)

The new directive states that “all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures should be ceased”. As part of Directive #2, in making decisions regarding the cessation or postponement of non-emergent and non-urgent procedures, clinicians should be guided by their Regulatory College and the following principles: proportionality, minimizing harm to patients, equity and reciprocity, all of which are defined within Directive #2. We believe our clinicians are best positioned to determine this based on an individual patient specific needs assessment and a fair and transparent process. All patients will continue to have access to other health services, including services that are peripheral to surgical services, such as diagnostic services and pain management,

Emergent and urgent surgeries **will not** be impacted.

LWDH will continue to work closely with system partners - locally, regionally, and provincially - as the current situation evolves. The situation is being monitored closely and should things continue to deteriorate in southern Ontario, there may be further impacts in northern Ontario. LWDH will be well positioned to pivot, if necessary, to make further changes.

We recognize this third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is creating unprecedented burdens on our health system and wish to acknowledge our entire team for their responsiveness, professionalism, and commitment during these challenging times

#TogetherWeCanDoSoMuch #OurCommunitiesOurHospital

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