

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **LWDH Emergency Department facing intermittent closures throughout the summer months**

*Kenora, ON, June 30, 2022* – A significant lack of Health Human Resources in many professions has caused a serious strain on the delivery of health care in Northwestern Ontario. This includes physician shortages, which have been a threat to health care delivery for many years.

The Lake of the Woods District Hospital has been working diligently to seek physician coverage to avoid any closures, but there is a strong chance that due to circumstances beyond our control, closures are imminent throughout the summer months.

We understand how stressful this message can be. LWDH would like to assure you that a contingency plan is in place and during a closure, a patient who requires emergency care will be transported to the nearest Emergency Department. We will continue to work as a region to advocate for equitable access to necessary healthcare resources and to seek long-term solutions to address health human resource strategies in our area.

It is also important to recognize the hard work and dedication of our local physicians, many of whom provide coverage in a number of services over and above the ED including busy family practices, anesthesia, hospital inpatients, surgical assist, obstetrics, fracture clinic, etc. These pending closures are weighing heavily on our exhausted ED physician team, and though they are doing everything to prevent a closure, they know it is important to communicate to you that this may occur.

When a closure is going to occur, LWDH will communicate widely within our communities and region to ensure everyone is made aware and will ensure our contingency plans are in place and are being followed.

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### **Media Contact:**

Charlene Kissick, Brand Management Lead

807-464-1941

[ckissick@lwdh.on.ca](mailto:ckissick@lwdh.on.ca)

[www.lwdh.on.ca](http://www.lwdh.on.ca)

