

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**One hospital unit experiencing COVID-19 outbreak  
Mandatory masking in place throughout all patient care areas**

*Kenora, ON, February 10, 2025* –A COVID-19 Outbreak has been declared on one unit of Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) – MedSurg 3E/ICU. The LWDH Infection Control team is investigating the outbreak and is working collaboratively with the Northwestern Health Unit to ensure effective control strategies.

The health and safety of our patients, their families and our entire hospital team is our utmost priority. Considering the outbreak, **visitor restrictions have been implemented to the affected unit. The restriction is effective February 10th, 2025 @ 1100hrs until further notice.** Limited exceptions may apply to end of the life patients as well as other extenuating circumstances. Any exceptions will be determined by the unit manager or delegate. Visitors are permitted in other areas of the hospital as per the visitor policy. Please do not visit your loved one if you are experiencing any respiratory symptoms.

This winter there has been an increase in respiratory illness in the community and the LWDH Emergency Department is seeing above average respiratory visits. Influenza A & B, RSV and COVID-19 have all been detected. Therefore, with careful thought and consideration, **LWDH has implemented mandatory masking in all patient care areas** until further notice. This includes hallways, corridors and nursing stations.

Your patience and understanding is appreciated. LWDH will provide updates on the outbreak as we are able to.

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