



COVID-19 UPDATE

Province Wide Shutdown Effective Saturday, December 26th, 2020 at 12:01 am

The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other experts, announced earlier this week a province wide shut down. The shutdown will only be for 14 days in Northern Ontario.

Four time-limited public health and workplace safety measures will include, but are not limited to:

1. Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining in restaurants and bars. Takeout, drive-through and delivery will be allowed.
2. Restricting indoor access to shopping malls. Patrons may go to designated indoor pickup by appointment only.
3. Prohibiting in-person shopping in most retail settings, while excluding pharmacies and grocery stores. Curbside pickup and delivery can continue at other stores.
4. Restricting indoor gatherings to members of the same household (the people you live with). Individuals who live alone may consider having exclusive contact with one other household.

It should be easy to abide by the first three measures. But, the fourth measure will be somewhat more difficult to abide by, especially during the festive season of giving.

However, we do **NOT** want to give the virus to our loved ones.

Also, to preserve health care capacity, safeguard vulnerable populations and those that care for them, all visiting of patients in the Hospital and all visiting of residents in the John Owen Even's Residence will be discontinued throughout the shutdown period. Visiting will resume on January 8/21 unless the government changes shutdown measures or the time period. The Hospital will post such changes if necessary.

I am confident that everyone both inside the Geraldton District Hospital and in the Communities served by the Hospital will be very cautious during the holiday season by washing hands frequently, wearing masks, social distancing and restricting indoor gatherings.

Thank You & Stay Safe

Kurt Pristanski
Interim CEO