

Pembroke Regional Hospital Praises Health Care Team For Exceptional Work Despite Staffing Challenges

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PEMBROKE – The Pembroke Regional Hospital is reassuring the community that despite staffing challenges our front line staff and physicians are doing everything in their power to maintain and ensure safe and effective patient care for all who need it, while going above and beyond in supporting their co-workers and the organization as a whole.

“Over the past two years our hospital has faced some difficult challenges but none as difficult as those we’ve seen over the past few weeks,” said PRH President and CEO Pierre Noel. “With the current COVID-19 variant being so transmissible and so widespread during this sixth wave, our staff and physicians have been having high risk contacts and contracting the virus at a higher rate than in earlier waves.”

Mr. Noel explained that, with the recent lifting of COVID-19 restrictions in the community, PRH is experiencing an extremely high number of staff and physicians who have tested positive or have been deemed a high risk contact to someone who has tested positive for the virus and are unable to come to work. Making things more difficult is the fact that while the COVID isolation period within the community is five days after a positive test or the onset of symptoms, isolation guidelines for those working in hospitals are significantly longer and extends return to work eligibility.

The unpredictable staffing shortages have also impacted the hospital’s ability to continue to ramp up surgeries and procedures and may result in additional service delays. “Because we have not been able to staff our departments to the full extent and have had to deploy staff to areas with critical shortages we have not been able to resume our full surgical capacity,” Mr. Noel said.

The hospital continues to find new and innovative ways to staff the facility including the temporary onboarding of nurses from community-based agencies from outside our region.

Mr. Noel said that he and his management team are very grateful to their dedicated health care team who have been working short-handed, stepping up whenever they can and are being very flexible and adaptable to rapidly changing circumstances.

“This hasn’t been easy for anyone but so many of our staff and physicians are pulling together, going above and beyond showing true dedication to our patients. We see this dedication at every turn and are trying to show our appreciation whenever we can to keep people’s spirits up. We ask the community to join us in thanking our dedicated and hard working team at the Pembroke Regional Hospital,” he said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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