

For Immediate Release

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Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital Foundation
Carleton Place, ON

Carleton Place Hospital participating in OHA's *Clean Hands Protect Lives* campaign

Carleton Place hospital has a clear and strong focus on patient safety and one of the hospital's major patient safety targets this year includes a new hand hygiene program called *Clean Hands Protect Lives*. The *Clean Hands Protect Lives* program, developed by the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, has been specifically designed to educate Ontario health care patients about the importance of effective hand hygiene.

"We all know that hand washing is the simplest and most effective way to prevent infections and the spread of dangerous germs throughout the hospital", stated Linda Howard, Infection Control Professional of CPDMH. "The goal of *Clean Hands Protect Lives* is to educate and empower patients about personal hand hygiene while managing their expectations about when health care providers should clean their hands."

Hand hygiene is an important practice for health care providers and patients and has a significant impact on reducing the spread of infections in hospitals. Through *Clean Hands Protect Lives*, Ontario hospitals are provided with the messages and supporting materials they need to reinforce that effective hand hygiene is the responsibility of both the patient and health care provider. The *Clean Hands Protect Lives* aligns very closely with the Ministry's *Just Clean Your Hands* program, which was developed to help health care providers improve their hand hygiene and integrate this practice into their organization's culture.

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