

For Immediate Release

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Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital
Carleton Place, ON

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital joins in hand washing campaign

‘Would you take a moment to use the hand sanitizer please?’ is the greeting that now welcomes all visitors to the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH). The move to encourage the use of a hand sanitizer was implemented under recommendation from Health Canada.

“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, Occupational Health Officer of CPDMH. “Asking everyone to use the sanitizer as they enter the building will not only protect visitors to the hospital, but more importantly will also help prevent our patients from developing complicated infections that may delay their recovery.”



Volunteer Betty Smith asks Margaret LeBlanc and Bertha Stegmuire to wash their hands as they enter the hospital

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers such as Purell take less time to use than the traditional soap and water cause less skin irritation and allergic reactions are very uncommon. Studies have also shown that alcohol-based hand sanitizers actually reduce the number of bacteria on the hands as effectively as washing hands with soap and water.

“Not only are we asking the visitors to be more aware of proper hand washing, we are also asking staff to take more care in washing and disinfecting their hands”, stated Norine Primeau-Menzies, AED Patient Services, CPDMH. “We have installed Purell hand washing stations throughout the hospital to make it easy for staff and visitors to ensure good hand hygiene.”

In addition to encouraging hand washing, CPDMH is asking the public to be more aware of wearing scents into the hospital and would like to remind the community that the hospital has a no scent policy. This policy relates to the use of perfume, cologne, or scented aftershaves, as well as fragranced personal care products such as deodorants, soaps and hair products.

“Most people understand that scents can trigger an allergic reaction that can be life threatening for an individual. At the Hospital, we often have compromised patients who can become very ill when exposed to these triggers”, stated Norine Primeau-Menzies. “We want our hospital to be a safe environment for everybody so we are trying to make the public more aware of the possible risks of wearing perfume, colognes and other scented products.”

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