



# PRESS RELEASE

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## NSHN Suspends All Non-Essential Visitation until Further Notice

Blind River, ON – The North Shore Health Network (NSHN) continues to coordinate the response to COVID-19 in alignment with the directives from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

In order to ensure a safe and secure environment for residents of our Long-Term Care Home as well as patients in our Acute Care and Emergency Departments, **only essential visitors will be permitted until further notice.**

Essential visitors are identified as those visiting a patient or resident who is very ill or requiring end-of-life care, or a parent / guardian of an ill child or youth. All visitors will continue to be actively screened upon arrival.

In alignment with the recent provincial direction to begin curtailing elective clinical services, NSHN is evaluating the availability to provide outpatient services with the following updates:

- Chiropractic Clinics are **cancelled**.
- Physiotherapy services are **reduced**; patients will be notified of the impact of this reduction.
- Laboratory services will be available by **appointment only**. Please call 705-356-2265 ext. 2580 to book an appointment. Outpatient Laboratory hours are 7:30am to 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.
- Additional services may be impacted; NSHN will provide updates as they become available.

**Patients coming to the Emergency Department with suspected symptoms of COVID-19 are asked to call ahead prior to coming to the facility. It is requested that patients only visit the Emergency Departments at this time if in need of urgent care.**

If you are feeling unwell and not sure if you should be tested, call Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) or call Algoma Public Health (1-866-892-0172 ext 5404).

**If you need immediate medical attention, please call 911 and mention your travel history and symptoms.**

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