



PRESS RELEASE

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NSHN Implements Screening for Patients and Visitors

Blind River, ON – Earlier this week, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care instructed all long-term care homes to begin active screening of all visitors as emerging information on COVID-19 suggests elderly individuals and those with underlying health conditions are at increased risk.

As a result, the North Shore Health Network (NSHN) has begun active screening of patients and visitors at all sites – Blind River, Thessalon, and Richards Landing – Matthews.

The following protocols are in place at each site:

- **Blind River Site**
 - All out-patients and visitors must enter through the hospital's **Main Entrance** for screening during regular business hours (7am – 10pm).
 - After-hours screening will take place via the night entrance (10pm – 7am).
 - The long-term care entrance is **closed** until further notice; the long-term care unit remains open to visitors at this time.
- **Thessalon Site**
 - All screening will take place prior to entering the department.
- **Richards Landing – Matthews**
 - All screening will take place prior to entering the building.

After screening, patients or visitors will be asked to clean their hands, and may be asked to put on a mask.

If you have a fever and/or new onset of cough or difficulty breathing **and** in the 14 days before symptom onset you have been to a COVID-19 impacted area, or you have been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, or you have been in close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to a COVID-19 impacted area, **please delay your visit AND contact your health care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000).**

NSHN apologizes for any inconvenience, and thanks all for their cooperation in maintaining the well-being of our clients, patients, residents, and workers.

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