



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Eastern Health to Resume Some Services**

**May 13, 2020 – St. John's, NL:** Eastern Health has started the process of gradually resuming some health-care services throughout the region. Medical imaging, endoscopy, cardiac diagnostic, and surgical services have been identified as areas within the health-care system that can gradually and safely begin to resume service at this time.

“In support of our patients, we have been working diligently on plans to safely resume some services across the region. This includes working with the Department of Health and Community Services, other regional health authorities and physicians who are reviewing patient lists to identify high priority cases” said Dr. Lawrence Alteen, VP, Medical Services. “Health services will initially resume slowly so that the impact on the system can be managed as we continue to monitor COVID-19 activity, and so that the system can adapt quickly to care for patients in case of a spike or second wave of COVID-19.”

As services gradually resume for high priority cases, Eastern Health will continue to ensure that sufficient resources, such as personal protective equipment and bed capacity, are closely monitored. Adequate supplies of these resources are required to manage and maintain surge capacity.

“We acknowledge that this is a difficult time for those awaiting routine procedures, and I would like to thank all staff and physicians who are working to resume care to our patients,” said David Diamond, President and CEO. “I want to assure the public that they can be confident in coming to our facilities for their health-care needs, and we have processes in place to protect them. We also appreciate the co-operation from the public as we continue to adjust the way we provide services during this unique time.”

Patients who are identified for high priority services by their physician will be contacted directly by physician's offices to have their appointments rescheduled. Patients with questions or concerns about their health are advised to contact their health-care provider. To reduce the spread of Covid-19 and conserve PPE, many health-care providers are offering virtual care options such as phone or video conference appointments.

Measures are in place to protect individuals when entering our facilities. Upon entry, the public will be screened for COVID-19 through a series of questions and be provided a mask. We remind the public to practice physical distancing while in our facilities.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the Provincial Department of Health and Community Services website at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>. For updates pertaining to Eastern Health's ongoing services, please visit Eastern Health's Facebook page and Twitter feed. General contact information is available at: [www.easternhealth.ca/contactus](http://www.easternhealth.ca/contactus)

### **About Eastern Health**

Eastern Health is the largest, integrated health authority in Newfoundland and Labrador employing approximately 13,000 dedicated employees, over 600 medical staff, and is supported by approximately 2,000 volunteers, including members of numerous auxiliaries and fundraising foundations. With an annual budget of approximately \$1.5 billion, the authority offers the full continuum of health and community services including public health, long-term care, community services, hospital care and unique provincial programs and services. Serving a population of over 300,000, Eastern Health's geographic boundaries extend from St. John's west to Port Blandford including all communities on the Avalon, Burin and Bonavista Peninsulas.

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