



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2009

Alternate Site Flu Assessment Clinic Opening at STEGH

St. Thomas, ON - In response to the increasing number of people in the community with influenza-like illness, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) will be establishing an Alternate Site Flu Assessment Clinic in A-Wing of the Complex Continuing Care Centre (CCC.) The clinic will open Thursday November 5th at 2:00p.m.

Opening this clinic will reduce the impact of very high volumes of patients with flu like symptoms seeking care in the Emergency Department, and better address the needs of people in the community with influenza-like illness. This assessment clinic is a walk-in clinic functioning much like a doctor's office, to assess and treat patients with flu-like illness, in a location separate from Emergency Department.

The clinic will be for patients with flu symptoms only. The clinic will not dispense vaccines, and will not treat patients for ailments other than flu-like illness.

The clinic will be staffed by a physician along with nurses and support staff.

Here are guidelines for patients on what type of care they should access and how the Assessment Clinic fits into the continuum of care:

1. If you have flu symptoms, but think you feel well enough to care for yourself at home, please do so. You may also call Telehealth Ontario for advice at 1-866-797-0000.
2. If you have flu symptoms and think you need medical attention, call your family doctor first.
3. If you are unable to access your family doctor, please visit the Flu Assessment Clinic.
4. If you are having difficulty breathing, are feeling delirious, or otherwise feel you are at high risk, please visit the Emergency Department.

Planned Clinic Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday: 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. -10 p.m.

These clinic hours may change. For the most up to date information please check the hospital website at www.stegh.on.ca.

Patients coming to the Flu Assessment Clinic should park in the CCC parking lot at the back of the Hospital off Gliddon Avenue, and are asked to limit the number of visitors travelling with them. They will be asked to put on a mask and remain in the designated flu assessment clinic area.

"This Alternate Site Flu Assessment Clinic will give people in our community who have the flu another place to seek care if their symptoms worsen," says STEGH President and CEO Paul Collins.

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