



For Immediate Release

Monday January 23, 2012

Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak Declared Over at STEGH

St. Thomas, ON – The outbreak of Gastrointestinal illness in the Continuing Care Centre at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) has been declared over by Elgin St Thomas Public Health. All temporary visitor precautions have been lifted and normal visitor guidelines are back in place effective Monday January 23rd.

The Hospital has been working closely with Elgin St. Thomas Public Health to manage this outbreak and Rhonda Beliveau, Infection Control Specialist at the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital says she is pleased with how the outbreak was managed and how quickly the outbreak was resolved.

“All staff involved in the control of this outbreak deserve tremendous recognition for their efforts,” says Rhonda Beliveau. “It has been through their quick action and diligence that the outbreak was effectively contained and did not spread to any other areas of the Hospital.”

Tim Hagerman, Public Health Inspector with the Communicable Disease Team at Elgin St. Thomas Public Health says, “The number of cases was well below normal for this type of outbreak, likely due to the control measures put in place.”

The Hospital also thanks the public for their cooperation during the outbreak. Visitors were restricted from visiting the areas in the outbreak. Those restrictions have been lifted and normal visitor guidelines are back in place.

All visitors are asked to continue to wash their hands thoroughly, or use the liquid hand sanitizer before and after visiting a patient. Careful hand washing is critical to manage the spread of infection. All visitors are asked to delay their visit for 48 hours if they are sick or have other family members with any illness. Illness can often spread before symptoms are obvious, so if it is in your household, you may be transmitting it to others.

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For more information contact:

Cathy Fox

Communications and Public Relations Specialist

St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital

519- 631-2030 Ext. 2191

cfox@stegh.on.ca

www.stegh.on.ca