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ST. THOMAS ELGIN GENERAL HOSPITAL LAUNCHES “JUST CLEAN YOUR HANDS”
Pilot project at 10 Ontario hospitals aimed at improving health care worker hand hygiene

St. Thomas, ON - St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) will be one of ten hospitals across Ontario testing and evaluating a program focused on improving hand hygiene by health care workers Paul Collins STEGH President and CEO today announced. The hospitals involved in the pilot will be instrumental in helping to shape a provincial improvement strategy for hand hygiene.

The overall goal of the program is to obtain and sustain a long-term improvement in hand hygiene practices by Ontario’s health care workers. Hand hygiene is the single most important way to prevent the spread of infections.

“When our health care workers clean their hands before and after touching each patient, it helps stop germs from spreading,” said Collins. “We want to prevent our patients from getting these infections in the first place, and all it takes is someone to clean their hands.”

The program, “Just Clean Your Hands”, has been designed to help build a culture where infection prevention and control is everyone’s business. Beginning in March, the pilot will run for six months at STEGH. It is a multifaceted program that includes education, senior management commitment, workplace role models and a communications toolkit. As well, alcohol-based hand rubs will be placed where patient care is provided, to make hand cleaning more convenient. The results from the pilot will be evaluated by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to determine which components are suitable to be included in a province-wide program.

“The goal of the “Just Clean Your Hands” program is to improve health care worker compliance with proper hand hygiene. St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital is committed to doing its part to ensure both patients and staff remains as healthy as possible,” said Brenda Lambert Vice President of Patient Care at STEGH.

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