

For Immediate Release | May 27, 2019

Full suspension of maternity services at CMH for four days

WILLIAMS LAKE – Interior Health (IH) is advising all expectant mothers that **Cariboo Memorial Hospital (CMH) in-patient maternity services will be temporarily suspended for four days starting May 30.**

For the safety of mothers and their babies, Interior Health is asking a small number of mothers with deliveries anticipated between May 30 to June 3 to relocate to Kamloops and plan for their deliveries at Royal Inland Hospital.

Low-risk delivery services will resume again on June 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The disruption in service is due to a lack of trained maternity nurses during that four-day period. IH regrets the impact this interruption to services will have on expectant mothers and families and continues to work to restore full maternity services in Williams Lake as quickly as possible.

Maternity services were temporarily suspended at CMH at the end of February due to an unexpected critical shortage of maternity nurses. Low-risk deliveries resumed on April 30 with a clarification that staffing challenges could still result in temporary interruptions until full staffing is in place.

Contingency plans to support expectant mothers remain in place to accommodate temporary services disruptions.

Interior Health is confident full maternity services will resume at CMH in July.

We would like to thank the community, as well as staff and physicians for their flexibility and dedication during this challenging time, and to our maternity nurses for their support of CMH patients in the months ahead.

Maternity nurse staffing update:

In addition to the recent hiring of two new maternity nurses for CMH in April, one new maternity nurse will start in June and five CMH nurses are currently being trained in full-scope maternity care and are expected to be ready to support Cariboo area patients in July. In addition, maternity nurses from other areas of Interior Health and outside Interior Health are coming to Williams Lake to support local patients.

-30-

Media, for information:

Media@interiorhealth.ca

1-844-469-7077