

For Immediate Release | January 22, 2021

Interior Health declares COVID-19 outbreak on Royal Inland Hospital unit

KAMLOOPS – Interior Health has declared a COVID-19 outbreak on unit 6 South at Royal Inland Hospital (RIH).

As of Friday morning, six patients and two staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. Patients with COVID-19 from this unit have been relocated to the COVID unit.

Although 6 South is a surgical unit, RIH surgeries are continuing at this time. Patients admitted after surgery will receive care on a different floor and 6 South is closed to admissions until further notice.

The hospital is safe to attend for appointments or emergency care. Please continue with any scheduled procedures and COVID-19 self-isolation is not required after visiting the hospital.

A team of infection control and communicable disease specialists, along with RIH clinical staff and leaders, are meeting daily to ensure all measures are being taken to prevent transmission of the virus.

“Our staff and physicians have worked hard to keep COVID-19 out of the hospital, which was no simple feat considering the number of communities served by RIH,” said Medical Health Officer Dr. Carol Fenton. “Now we will work together to quickly contain this outbreak and support the staff and patients who have tested positive for COVID-19.”

The public is reminded that socialization must be limited to immediate household bubbles. Please do not invite friends or extended family to your residence for a visit or gathering.

It is important to follow public health guidance such as physical distancing, washing your hands regularly and wearing a mask.

Everyone in all communities should remain vigilant in following COVID-19 precautions:

- Keep to your household bubbles and avoid social gatherings.
- Stay home when you are sick and get tested if you have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Practise physical distancing
- Wear a mask.
- Wash your hands often
- Avoid non-essential travel

Booking a COVID-19 test:

Online: You can book an appointment online through the COVID-19 Test Booking Form:
<https://interiorhealthcovid.secureform.ca/index.php>

By phone: Call the COVID-19 Test Booking Line at 1-877-740-7747 for assistance with booking your test.