

For Immediate Release | July 27, 2017

Info Bulletin – Update on Williams Lake health services

WILLIAMS LAKE – Health services provided by Interior Health (IH) will be restored in phases, now that a wildfire evacuation order has been lifted for the community.

The Cariboo Memorial Hospital (CMH) emergency department is open for 24/7 urgent patient care.

Outpatient lab and X-ray services will resume at CMH on Friday, July 28.

Please Note: While the evacuation order has been lifted, an evacuation alert remains in place and air quality within the region continues to fluctuate due to wildfire activity. Poor air quality can be harmful to health, especially for children, older adults, and those with heart and lung conditions.

Resumption of other IH services:

Other hospital services (including acute inpatient beds, scheduled surgeries, oncology, and hospital-based clinics) **will remain closed at this time**. Individuals requiring ongoing hospital-based care may be transferred to alternate facilities. Maternity patients may still need to be redirected or transferred to alternate facilities for their deliveries until the maternity unit re-opens.

Wherever possible, Interior Health staff has remained in contact with home support, home health and Mental Health Substance Use (MHSU) clients from the Williams Lake area. IH will support access to local services as clients return to the community. While full services resume locally, clients should take note of the following:

- For urgent needs, MHSU clients should call 250-305-8496 to speak to a MHSU nurse or visit the emergency department. Additional MHSU staff will be available to support those returning to the community.
- Home support and home health clients who have urgent needs should call 250-305-4071 or visit the emergency department.

IH encourages individuals to contact their family physician's office directly for information on hours of operation during this re-entry phase.

IH continues planning for the staged return of other regular services at CMH, and the return of residents to IH's residential care facility Deni House and residents and assisted living clients to IH's contracted partner site, Williams Lake Seniors Village. Decisions regarding these vulnerable individuals as well as services for oncology (chemotherapy) and renal patients will be based on the lifting of any remaining alerts, local air quality, and wildfire activity in the region.

CMH was [closed](#) on July 15 due to an evacuation order related to local wildfire activity. IH had [evacuated](#) acute care patients from CMH, residents from Deni House, and residents and assisted living clients from Williams Lake Seniors Village the previous week as a precautionary measure.

IH will continue to update residents on the status of facilities and health services in Williams Lake. Please visit our [Major Events](#) page on the IH website for updates and further information related to the current wildfire situation.

Interior Health appreciates the public's understanding and patience as we work to restore local health services during this challenging time.

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