

For Immediate Release | August 10, 2017

Info Bulletin – Williams Lake health services and the evacuation alert

WILLIAMS LAKE – Given the current state of wildfire activity in the region and the evacuation alert that remains in place for Williams Lake, Interior Health (IH) has taken a phased approach to resumption of health services.

While the evacuation alert remains in place, **the following services remain closed and are being provided through alternative means:**

- **Specialty services such as oncology and renal** – patients continue to receive treatment in other community settings and are encouraged to stay in touch with their primary physician or specialist regarding re-entry to Williams Lake and area.
- **Maternity services** – maternity patients should stay in touch with their primary care provider recognizing Cariboo Memorial Hospital (CMH) is unable to accommodate labour and delivery at this time.
- **Acute inpatient beds** – for individuals presenting to the CMH emergency department who require ongoing hospital care, arrangements will be made for transfer to another location.
- **Surgical procedures** – at this time, elective procedures are limited to minor, outpatient cases (those that do not require hospital admission).
- **Residential Care and Assisted Living** – individuals who are normally receiving care through Deni House and Williams Lake Seniors Village continue to remain at alternate sites, the majority through facilities in Northern Health.

The following services have resumed, and are available in Williams Lake:

- Emergency Department – provides 24/7 urgent patient care
- Diagnostic Imaging – such as CT, ultrasound, and X-rays
- Outpatient Lab
- Cardiology – such as ECGs
- Endoscopies – with the exception of endoscopies that would require follow-up inpatient care, as noted above
- Ambulatory Care Nurse Clinic at CMH – with the exception of chemotherapy as noted above, all other services are in place
- Home Health and Home Support
- Mental Health Substance Use
- Public Health

For further detail on the services listed above, please refer to the Aug. 2 [Info Bulletin](#), *Update on Williams Lake health services*.

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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