

April 11, 2022

## **South West Hospitals to Maintain Masking Requirements Indefinitely**

Hospitals across the South West have updated their ongoing protections against COVID-19 and confirm that current masking requirements for all individuals entering their facilities will continue indefinitely.

In addition to continuing to require masking, active screening of all individuals entering hospital facilities will be maintained. COVID-19 Immunization Policies that require all new midwives, physicians, staff, volunteers and contractors to be vaccinated will also remain in place.

With these adjustments in place, individuals are reminded that getting vaccinated and boosted remains the best protection against serious illness and hospitalization from COVID-19. In addition, hospitals urge everyone to continue with public health recommendations such as masking where physical distancing is not possible, staying home if unwell and regular hand washing.

Supporting this announcement are: Alexandra Hospital, Alexandra Marine & General Hospital, Grey Bruce Health Services, Hanover and District Hospital, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance, Listowel Wingham Hospital Alliance, London Health Sciences Centre, Middlesex Hospital Alliance, St. Joseph's Health Care London, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital, South Bruce Grey Health Centre, South Huron Hospital Association, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and Woodstock General Hospital.

### **Quotes from Huron Perth and Area Hospital Presidents and CEOs:**

*"Throughout the pandemic we have, as a system of hospitals, been continually assessing what we feel are responsible protections for our patients, our teams and those visiting our hospital sites," says **Andrew Williams, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance President & CEO.** "As the pandemic continues to impact our communities, including significantly affecting our ability to staff programs and services due to increasing COVID-19 absences, maintaining this level of protection in high-risk environments is prudent. While opinions on direction will always vary, our top priority is the safety of those we serve."*

*"Our top priority is the safety of our patients and staff and maintaining this level of protection in high-risk environments is necessary," says **Jimmy Trieu, AMGH & SHHA President & CEO.** "Over the past two years, everyone has been affected by COVID-19 either directly or indirectly and we must continue to adhere to public health measures."*

*"The hospitals across the south west have continuously assessed our infection control practices in place to protect our patients, our visitors, and our staff. As a group of hospitals, we want to ensure that the safety measures in place allow for the continuance of services and programs. While we acknowledge the varying opinions, we must prioritize the safety of those we serve." Says **Karl Ellis, Listowel Wingham Hospitals Alliance President and CEO.***