

CentralEasthealthline.ca key source for holiday health care options *Supporting timely patient access to non-emergency medical services over the holiday season*

NEWS

December 22, 2017

The winter season brings with it an increased demand for health services in tandem with holiday closures between Christmas and New Year's. Knowing where to go for health care is key for many individuals and families at this time of year.

[CentralEasthealthline.ca](http://www.centraleasthealthline.ca) is a free, comprehensive on-line resource featuring up-to-date information on services available for non-emergency medical needs across communities in the Central East region of Ontario.

The site's [Holiday Hours page](http://www.centraleasthealthline.ca/libraryContent.aspx?id=22239) (<http://www.centraleasthealthline.ca/libraryContent.aspx?id=22239>) lists information on hours of service, contact numbers and maps for medical walk-in clinics, urgent care centres, pharmacies with extended hours, and crisis intervention assistance. The goal of this page is to help inform people of medical resources other than hospital Emergency Departments available during statutory holidays.

QUOTES

“With the holiday season approaching, we know there is added pressure on hospital Emergency Departments as they contend with an influx of patients with non-emergency health care needs. This can lead to overcrowding and longer wait times. We encourage members of the public to access [CentralEasthealthline.ca](http://www.centraleasthealthline.ca) when they are looking for help with non-emergency medical issues over the holidays.”

- Deborah Hammons, Chief Executive Officer, Central East LHIN

“The site is a trusted and comprehensive source of health and community services right at your fingertips listing 5,162 services from 2,179 health care organizations. We want people in our communities to be aware of this resource as a tool to assist people in navigating the health system by way of local health information not only during the holiday season, but year round.”

- Michael Robbins, Executive Director, thehealthline.ca Information Network.

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