



PRESS RELEASE

Temporary Suspensions at Carman Memorial Hospital- beginning January 4th, 2022

Effective January 4, 2022, the Carman Memorial Hospital will temporarily suspend both inpatient and emergency department services as necessary upgrades to the facility's heating and ventilation system are completed, announced Jane Curtis, CEO Southern Health-Santé Sud earlier today.

"Necessary remediation to the facility's HVAC system has been identified and is being prioritized for repair so that the facility is able to return to its full, normal operations as soon as possible," said Curtis. "Enhanced primary care services, laboratory and diagnostics will remain available at the facility and home care and community health services are not affected by this temporary change. Community members in need of urgent or emergency health services are asked to call 911 or visit the nearest 24/7 emergency department."

The repairs, Curtis added, are expected to take several weeks, and will require the facility to suspend some services from January 4, 2022 to approximately mid-February. A date for re-opening will be communicated to the community as construction progresses.

Carman Memorial Hospital is a 25-bed facility, which currently operates a 12-hour emergency department. Inpatients are primarily individuals awaiting placement in a personal care home and will be transferred to appropriate available space in the health region. Patients and their families have received confirmation of their upcoming transfer and information will be shared as details are confirmed.

The Emergency Department will see services temporarily suspended, with patients directed to call 911 in an emergency or to visit the nearest 24-hour emergency department, located at the Portage District General Hospital or the Boundary Trails Health Centre. Work is underway to establish an enhanced primary care service within the Emergency Department space. Details will be shared with the community when hours of operation have been determined.

Facility staff, including nursing staff, health care aides and facility management will be redeployed to other SH-SS's regional sites, located in Portage and Morden-Winkler, where they will join health care teams providing care to both COVID and non-COVID patients.

"We appreciate the commitment and dedication of all staff who are being disrupted," added Curtis. "We thank the community for their patience and understanding and are committed to ensuring ongoing access to health services for the community of Carman and surrounding areas and look forward to reopening the Carman Hospital for both inpatient and Emergency Care in the coming weeks."

Physicians, laboratory and diagnostics staff will remain at the site, supporting enhanced primary care services as well as outpatient lab and diagnostics needs.

"We understand that this announcement will cause some concern within the community however we want to reassure the public that health services remain available at nearby facilities and in an emergency, by calling 911. We are also working on establishing primary care services with the emergency department space to support the local community" said Dr. Denis Fortier, Chief Medical Officer, SH-SS. "This renovation is necessary for our longer-term response to COVID-19 and other community health needs and comes at a time when our occupancy in the facility is quite low."

Members of the public can call the hospital at 204-745-2021 for more information.