

## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, September 17, 2020

### **Message to the community from Niagara Health President Lynn Guerriero on preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the community**

We are all seeing the increase in COVID-19 cases in communities across Ontario, including in Niagara. Thankfully, we do not have any patients in the hospital for treatment of COVID at this time.

As of this week, Niagara Health is at 100% of our pre-COVID volumes for surgeries and other services that were paused during the pandemic. We would like to maintain our services at these levels and continue to welcome visitors.

To do that, we need the community's unwavering support to keep the transmission of the virus down in the community. This means adhering at all times to the important public health measures that were so instrumental in Niagara's response to combatting the first wave of COVID-19 – masking, physical distancing and hand washing. We know more about this virus than we did in March. We know how it spreads, and we know it can be controlled with this bundled approach.

We do not want to be in a position in which we need to ramp down hospital services or limit access to visitors again. We know there is pandemic fatigue, but the virus is not done with us yet, and we ask that everyone do their part.

These are the best measures we have to prevent the spread of COVID and will be our new normal until there is a vaccine for COVID.

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