



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:**  
**May 16, 2020**

### ***Expanded COVID-19 Testing at Cambridge Memorial Hospital***

**Cambridge, Ontario** – Cambridge Memorial Hospital is pleased to announce expanded access to COVID-19 testing effective today. To facilitate rapid testing, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 can now contact the testing centre for an appointment. A referral from a physician or nurse practitioner is not required. The move was made with the full support of the Region of Waterloo’s Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang. “Expanded access to testing is important as the Province opens up businesses and services. In addition to continuing to accept physician referrals, I truly appreciate Cambridge Memorial Hospital being able to offer this additional option, as I believe this will only increase access to testing and remove barriers for residents, such as for those who are having difficulty accessing primary care during the pandemic. Broad testing of all those with COVID symptoms will aid in our disease control and surveillance” said Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang.

The hospital has been operating a testing and assessment centre since mid-March. The centre has been operated with a combination of hospital staff and staff from some of the primary care practices in Cambridge-North Dumfries. “It has been a true partnership and demonstrates how the health care system in Cambridge-North Dumfries collaborates to meet the needs of our patients” said Dr. Sharon Bal, a family practitioner in Cambridge and the Region of Waterloo’s non-hospital sector lead for the COVID-19 pandemic response.

“Since opening in March, the volume of testing has nearly quadrupled at the Cambridge testing centre. The staff working in the centre are to be commended for the dedication to this important work. We fully support any move to improve access for our community” said Patrick Gaskin, president and CEO.

To book an appointment, anyone with symptoms can call the centre directly at **519-621-2333 extension 2689** to schedule an appointment. The centre is open daily from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with extended hours on some evenings. The centre operates on an appointment only basis.

The latest Ministry of Health and Long Term Care reference document with broad list of potential symptoms (May 11, 2020) can be accessed at [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019\\_reference\\_doc\\_symptoms.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_reference_doc_symptoms.pdf)

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### **About Cambridge Memorial Hospital**

Cambridge Memorial Hospital is an acute care hospital offering a full complement of services including surgery, maternity, laboratory, diagnostics and emergency. It employs over 1,100 dedicated and skilled health care professionals, technicians and staff, 280 physicians and 400 volunteers providing exceptional care to the residents of Cambridge, the township of North Dumfries and the Region of Waterloo. For more information, visit [www.cmh.org](http://www.cmh.org).

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