

Halton Healthcare Services Declares Influenza A Outbreak on Medicine 4C at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital

(Halton Hills/Milton/Oakville, ON) December 17, 2014 – Halton Healthcare Services (HHS), working in conjunction with Halton Region Public Health Department, has confirmed an outbreak of Influenza A on its Inpatient Medicine 4C unit at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH).

Currently, there are nine patients with respiratory illness on Medicine 4C. Three of these patients have been confirmed as having Influenza A through laboratory testing performed at Ontario Public Health Laboratories. This is a community-based infection that occurred during their hospitalization on Medicine 4C. We continue to monitor all patients and staff for illness.

HHS is implementing its Infection Prevention and Control action plan to contain the outbreak and protect our patients, visitors, volunteers, staff and physicians as follows:

- All patients on Medicine 4C have been given preventative antiviral medication and/or treatment.
- Staff, physicians and visitors to the unit are required to use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for or visiting patients with flu-like illnesses.
- Signs have been placed at the main entrances to the hospital and the entrance to unit 4C advising visitors to stop at the nursing station for visitation instructions.
- Visitation is restricted to one person at a time, with appropriate PPE, for the duration of the outbreak.
- We discourage visitors under the age of 12, unless for compassionate reasons.
- Daily tracking of patients and staff for new cases of illness continues on 4C.
- Patients with respiratory symptoms are receiving additional precautions. In order to facilitate patient flow throughout the hospital, the unit will remain open to admissions despite the outbreak.
- All inpatient units at OTMH are undertaking active surveillance for patient and staff respiratory illness.
- Remember to wash your hands frequently.
- If you are ill, please do not visit the hospital.

About Halton Healthcare Services

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) is a progressive, multi-site healthcare organization comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital (GH), Milton District Hospital (MDH) and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH). Together these hospitals provide healthcare services to more than 325,000 residents in the communities of Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills. For more information, visit www.haltonhealthcare.com. Follow us on Twitter [@HaltonHlthcare](https://twitter.com/HaltonHlthcare).

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