



# Eastern Health

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Staff and Physicians

**FROM:** Debbie Walsh, vice president

**DATE:** August 8, 2022

**RE:** Response to State of Emergency

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You are aware by now that a state of emergency has been declared for parts of central Newfoundland due to forest fires in the area. According to government officials, the fires are not presently threatening the communities; however, as the movement of the wind is expected to change the pattern of smoke distribution will change significantly. Please refer to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador website for the latest information: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/thisweek/>.

This is a dynamic situation and regional health authorities are supporting Central Health in their efforts to evacuate hospitals, long-term care homes and personal care homes. To facilitate this, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Community Services, we are cancelling non-urgent surgeries for Monday and Tuesday at the Health Sciences Centre, St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre, Carbonear General Hospital, and the Dr. G.B. Memorial Hospital. Day surgeries are proceeding as scheduled.

Thank you to all those who worked through the weekend to assist with planning efforts. We appreciate the efforts of those who stepped up to work during a time of need, including those who went above and beyond by volunteering to work while on summer leave.

We also appreciate the ongoing dedication of all staff and physicians for supporting Central Health patients and long-term care residents in our facilities. You stepped up once again by working alongside and supporting your Central Health counterparts. By responding during a critical and timely situation once again, you are demonstrating your commitment to providing the highest level of care to the residents of our province.

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Debbie Walsh  
Vice President

