



P R I N C E E D W A R D
FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

Your partner for best health

35 Bridge Street • Picton • K0K 2T0 • 613-476-0400

Letter to the Seasonal Residents of Prince Edward County

March 31, 2020

To Our Many Seasonal Neighbours,

We are facing a global pandemic with the rapid spread of COVID-19. Before you choose to reside at your seasonal residence, we are asking that you consider our limited medical resources in Prince Edward County. During normal times, we greatly appreciate all that you contribute to our area, and we know that you value your time away from busier locales. We recognize that during this stressful time, you may desire to unwind and escape to our peaceful County.

We request that before you decide to spend this uncertain time at the cottage, you consider our local resources. Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital is a small, 18-bed hospital staffed by a small pool of local physicians. The same group of local physicians staff their own clinics, the emergency room, four local long-term care homes, and provide care to our hospital in-patients. PECMH is not equipped with an ICU, and has only two ventilators that are used for transportation of critically ill patients. Our closest ICU is about 45 minutes away. We anticipate that our regional ICUs will be strained supporting the population within its radius. Transport of patients between our hospitals and larger centres is always challenging, but moving COVID-19 patients will put many emergency health providers (paramedics and nurses) at risk. We have extremely dedicated nurses, paramedics and support staff who are being asked to give beyond what should be asked of them.

We also need to acknowledge the large proportion of senior citizens in our community. They are the most vulnerable during this pandemic. They rely on us to keep them safe.

We collectively have a lot of work to do. We look forward to the resolution of this pandemic. We look forward to a time when we can rest and truly enjoy our County again. Until then, we ask that you recognize the limits of our local health care system and consider remaining at your primary residence. This will allow us to focus on giving our local patients the best possible care we can provide.

Sincerely,

The Physicians of Prince Edward County