Misericordia emergency department remains closed

EDMONTON — The Misericordia Community Hospital's Emergency Department will remain closed until further notice due to damage caused by a water leak within the department.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Covenant Health are assessing the damage, with the intention of re-opening the emergency department as quickly as possible. We first must ensure that the space is remediated and safe for patient care.

If you need emergency care, please continue to use emergency departments in the Edmonton area, including:

- University of Alberta Hospital;
- Royal Alexandra Hospital;
- Grey Nuns Community Hospital;
- Northeast Community Health Centre;
- Sturgeon Community Hospital in St. Albert;
- Strathcona Community Hospital in Sherwood Park;
- WestView Health Centre in Stony Plain;
- Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital;
- Leduc Community Hospital;
- Devon General Hospital.

For non-emergencies, we are encouraging people to visit their family physician, the East Edmonton Urgent Care Centre, or the after-hours services provided by the Primary Care Networks particularly Edmonton Oliver and Edmonton West PCNs.

AHS has taken steps to ensure other emergency departments are prepared for increased demand stemming from the Misericordia shutdown, including bringing in additional staff, increasing waiting space and ensuring additional stretchers are available.

AHS has also ramped up inpatient services at the Glenrose and community services in Mental Health and Continuing Care.

The Mental Health Crisis Response Team is available 24/7 by calling 780-342-7777. They are available to anybody experiencing a mental health crisis and are a valuable alternative to the emergency department.

Health Link is also available to provide health advice 24/7, by calling 811.

We will have further updates on that as plans become firmed up in the coming days. Thank-you for your patience and understanding, and we apologize for the inconvenience and concern this may cause you.

For information on patients in the Misericordia Hospital, call switchboard at 780-735-2000.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Covenant Health will be available to media at 2:45 p.m. today. Please meet at the emergency department parking lot of the Misericordia Community Hospital.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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