



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 21, 2021

**Riverside Ramps Down  
Non-Emergent and Non-Urgent Elective Surgical Services**

As per Ministry directive, non-emergent/non-urgent elective surgeries and procedures are being halted to reduce risk to hospital environments and protect critical resources required to combat the pandemic. Riverside recognizes this news may be difficult and frustrating for our patients and families.

This ramp down of services only includes elective and non-urgent/non-emergent surgical procedures. If your procedure qualifies as non-urgent/non-emergent then you will be notified by Riverside staff that your scheduled appointment and/or procedure is cancelled. If you are not contacted, please present for your appointment as scheduled.

Riverside is also preparing for the potential of patient transfers from outside of the Rainy River District and sharing of available and willing staff with other hospital locations that may be experiencing overwhelming COVID-19 surges.

Riverside continues to provide emergent and urgent surgical care as we have continued to do throughout this pandemic. The pandemic is not over, we have simply entered a new phase, and we are remaining vigilant in our practices and asking everyone else to do the same.

“At Riverside, our team is remaining vigilant, recognizing our resilience and proactive approach are central to continuing to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. We appreciate the support of patients, residents, clients, families and the public as we implement these increased measures.” said President and CEO, Henry Gauthier.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Henry Gauthier  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Riverside Health Care

Reference:

Kathryn Pierroz - Communications Coordinator, Riverside Health Care, 807-274-3261 ext. 4525

Riverside Health Care is a fully accredited multi-site, multi-function health care system serving the residents of the Rainy River District. Riverside Health Care operates hospitals in Fort Frances, Emo and Rainy River, and Rainycrest Long-Term Care Home and La Verendrye Non Profit Supportive Housing in Fort Frances. Each community is also served by Riverside Community Counselling which provides mental health and addictions services, Community Support Services through Rainycrest and Riverside Valley Diabetes Education Centre which provides important chronic disease management programming. For more information, please visit [riversidehealthcare.ca](http://riversidehealthcare.ca)