



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

Memorandum

Date: March 20, 2020
To: Hospital
From: Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health
Subject: **Patients Leaving the Hospital on Day Passes**

There have been some isolated reports about patients going out to visit their families in lieu of the curtailed visits and visiting hours.

This is totally unacceptable behaviour and flies in the face of everything we are doing to combat the spread of infection currently in our community.

As we all know, a patient in hospital is frailer and has many complex chronic medical conditions. For example, chronic lung or neurological diseases which impair their ability to clear secretions from their lungs and airways.

Furthermore, respiratory infections can be more easily transmitted in an institutional environment. The evidence for the vulnerability of this population in the face of COVID-19 pandemic is clear.

As the Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit, I am strongly recommending that this activity stop immediately, that Renfrew County and District hospital are to no longer allow patients to leave the facility on day passes.

If there is a specific concern, please direct the patient to contact Renfrew County and District Health Unit at 613-735-8654.

Thank you,

D. Robert Cushman

Acting Medical Officer of Health