



**Significant improvement efforts continue following flood at  
St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton**

*Staff, contractors working around the clock to bring full services back on line at Charlton Campus.*

As staff and external contractors at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton clean up and remediate flood-damaged areas of the hospital's Charlton Campus, all are working non-stop with a single aim: to bring full services back on line as soon as possible.

On Monday January 13th, the hospital will begin seeing urgent, complex surgical patients whose procedures were cancelled due to the flood, a feat that hospital President Dr. David Higgins says is possible because of the amazing efforts of staff, physicians, external contractors and health system partners.

"To have seen where we were last Wednesday, and witness how far we've come today is truly remarkable," Dr. Higgins says. "While we know we are weeks away from a full recovery, I am amazed at the significant progress we've made, and at the commitment people have to ensuring we are bringing services back as quickly as possible."

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton's first priority is to minimize the impact this issue is having on patients throughout the community. "We know how difficult these cancellations are on both our patients, and those who have been affected at Hamilton Health Sciences. We are committed to providing regular updates to our community as we strive to return to full capacity as soon as possible."

Fortunately, all patients and staff who were in our facilities when the floods occurred were safe. The focus remains providing the best care possible to the patients already in the hospitals, while reaching out to those who needed to be rescheduled for care.

Since Wednesday, the hospital has been able to open some areas of the day surgery and surgical recovery. While the exact cause of the incident is still being determined, hospital officials are working closely with external experts to ensure another event does not happen again.

In order to get patient care back up and running, environmental staff have filled more than 60 additional shifts and added 400 man-hours. More than 30 contractors who are using specialized equipment are on site supporting the efforts, and more than 300 drying units are running 24/7 to expedite the clean up.

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St. Joseph's Health System CEO, Dr. Kevin Smith and Board Chair, Sister Anne Anderson have toured the damage. "The resiliency and commitment of our team is beyond words," says Dr. Smith. "We have had medical residents and physician assistants volunteering their time, working 16 hour shifts to help our patients. Staff are asking what they can do to volunteer to help. And the messages of support from our community are endless. The St. Joe's team so, capably led by Dr. David Higgins have done an incredible job. I can't thank our community and health system colleagues enough for their unwavering assistance during this difficult time."

Dr. Higgins stressed that while it is too soon to speculate on when the hospital will be able to provide full services at the Charlton Campus, the hospital is exploring every option available to ramp up services to ensure patients are seen as quickly as possible.

Time-stamped websites will continue at [www.stjoes.ca](http://www.stjoes.ca).

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