

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: The Senior Leadership Team
Date: November 22, 2022
Subject: PRH 2022 Christmas Activities

Today we have the task of delivering some disappointing news to all of you.

Given the unprecedented surge in the transmission of severe acute respiratory infections including Influenza, RSV and COVID-19 within the community which are impacting our most vulnerable residents – namely our children and the elderly, we have had to make some difficult decisions with regards to hospital-sanctioned Christmas events.

As a regional leader in health care, and given the staffing challenges we are already facing, we cannot in good conscience go ahead with hospital-sponsored mass gatherings which could potentially result in further illness transmission and put us at risk of critical staff challenges and service disruptions.

Staff Association Events

As a result, we have made the decision, in cooperation with the PRH Staff Association to cancel this year's December 3rd Christmas Dinner and Dance at Germania Hall, and to cancel the pizza lunch, Santa visit and *Junkyard Symphony* performance at the December 11th Family Christmas Party at the Petawawa Civic Centre. Those families and/or staff who still wish to, or would now like to partake in the public skate from 1-2 p.m. will still be able to do so and will receive a voucher for a beverage and/or snack from a local vendor when they sign in. Registration for this activity closes at 4 p.m. December 2nd.

We appreciate the tremendous amount of work that has gone into planning both of these events and recognize how disappointing this will be for those who were planning to attend.

Further communications with regards to refunds and/or alternative activities will be shared by the Staff Association as they are able to make these arrangements so please be patient.

Internal Christmas Activities

With regards to internal holiday events and activities, we are pleased to share that these will be able to continue so long as all hospital safety measures remain in place and are adhered to.

This includes:

- **Cookie exchanges: these will be permitted this year.**
- **Gatherings: so long as those organizing these, book a room that enables the group to adhere to maximum room occupancy and other COVID meeting/break room safety measures.**
- **Holiday meals and treats: please ensure that all participants have performed proper hand hygiene before selecting food items and using shared utensils.**
- **Decorations: please keep Christmas decorations off surfaces that are frequently cleaned or disinfected.**

We appreciate and recognize how important it is to celebrate the holiday season, not only with your friends and families but also with your co-workers, and are hopeful that despite having to cancel our events, you will each find ways to celebrate that are fun and meaningful and meet the guidelines.

As the Christmas season approaches, we encourage all of you to do what you can to stay healthy and safe within the community; including wearing masks in crowded spaces, being up to date with your COVID vaccine and getting your Flu shot if you haven't already.