



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MSH gradually resuming services put on hold during start of COVID-19 pandemic**

**MARKHAM, ON (June 10, 2020)** – Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) is beginning to gradually resume a number of scheduled procedures and outpatient care.

Hospitals in Ontario were asked by the provincial government to pause scheduled surgeries and a variety of other services in the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in March to make sure they had enough room, staff and supplies to treat COVID-19 patients. Only urgent surgeries and other emergency outpatient care has been conducted since then.

Beginning June 10, MSH will slowly ramp up services in surgery, diagnostic imaging, outpatient clinics (ambulatory care), and mental health services.

“We recognize how difficult and frustrating this situation has been for patients whose care was postponed and it is welcome news that the government is now giving hospitals and other health care providers the green light to slowly begin to provide these services again,” said Jo-anne Marr, President and CEO of MSH.

“While we want to provide care as soon as possible, our top priority is to make sure everyone – patients and staff – is safe when they come to our sites. We are working hard to strike the right balance between starting scheduled care and continuing to be ready for however the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.”

Patients will notice a number of changes when they come to the hospital, with new precautions and processes in place. This includes:

- Screeners at the entrance
- Expanded cleaning of high touch surfaces
- No visitors allowed with exceptions made on a case-by-case basis.
- Asking everyone who enters the building to wear a mask, perform proper hand hygiene regularly and practice physical distancing

MSH’s [COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#) also remains open to provide screening, assessment and testing for all individuals who wish to be tested.

More information about how and when services are resuming can be found at [msh.on.ca/patients-and-visitors/coming-markham-and-uxbridge-sites/resuming-services](https://msh.on.ca/patients-and-visitors/coming-markham-and-uxbridge-sites/resuming-services).

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**About Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH)**

Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) is one of Ontario's leading community hospitals. Across its two sites (Markham and Uxbridge) and the Reactivation Care Centre (RCC), the hospital has 329 beds and provides high quality, patient-centred care to more than 402,000 patients each year. It offers diagnostic and emergency services and delivers clinical programs in acute care medicine and surgery, addictions and mental health, and childbirth and children's services.

At MSH, 560 physicians, 25 midwives, 2,300 staff and 1,200 volunteers serve patients and families with an honoured to care mindset. The hospital partners with other providers to take this care beyond its walls and deliver an extraordinary patient experience to the residents of Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge and beyond. For more information: visit [www.msh.on.ca](http://www.msh.on.ca).