



ONTARIO HEALTH TEAM

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2022.

### **South Georgian Bay COVID-19, Cold and Flu Care Clinic Now Open**

**South Georgian Bay** – The South Georgian Bay Ontario Health Team (SGB OHT) is pleased to announce the opening of the South Georgian Bay COVID-19, Cold and Flu Care Clinic. The clinic provides assessment and care, by appointment, for people experiencing COVID-19, cold or flu symptoms and helps offset pressures facing the hospital emergency department. The clinic is an initiative that supports the shared purpose of the SGB OHT to keep residents in the South Georgian Bay community safe and was made possible thanks to the longstanding and trusting relationships across the community.

“The COVID-19, Cold and Flu Care Clinic is for those experiencing COVID-19, cold or flu symptoms who feel they need to see a doctor or nurse practitioner,” says Dr. Carola Elkhuisen, Physician with the Georgian Bay Family Health Organization. “We suggest that patients first access their family doctor or nurse practitioner if possible. The clinic offers quick and safe access to care to support our community and ease the burden on our local emergency department. Patients should know that the clinic will not be providing COVID-19 testing, or sick notes.”

As part of this collaborative effort to keep the community safe during COVID-19 and to help reduce the burden on our local emergency room, OHT Partners and primary care physicians are supporting the clinic’s daily operations. It is staffed by local nurse practitioners from the Georgian Bay Family Health Team (GBFHT) and local primary care and hospital physicians. In addition to these dedicated clinical contributions, the clinic is supported by many SGB OHT partners and staff. This includes clinic operational support through the GBFHT management staff, and resources from the Collingwood General and Marine Hospital in supplying essential infrastructure and Personal Protective Equipment, to keep clinic staff and patients safe.

“The successful and efficient establishment of the clinic to keep our community safe during this Omicron wave and beyond is a direct result of the longstanding relationships and shared purpose of the SGB OHT partners and supporters to keep our community safe,” says Marie LaRose, Executive Director of the Georgian Bay Family Health Team. “In a few hours, we went from meeting as a planning team to seeing our first patient. Thanks to our strong relationships, we were able to quickly come together, devise a plan and create this new clinic to ensure that everyone in South Georgian Bay can access health care for their symptoms and receive additional support as needed.”

Appointments to the clinic are available Monday to Friday afternoons and can be booked on the South Georgian Bay Ontario Health Team website: [www.southgeorgianbayoht.ca/information-testing](http://www.southgeorgianbayoht.ca/information-testing), by contacting your family physician, or dialing 2-1-1 (24/7 bilingual helpline). The booking system opens the day before the appointment is available. Once an appointment has been booked, patients are asked to arrive at 186 Erie Street in Collingwood and stay in their vehicle. At the time of the appointment, the South Georgian Bay COVID-19, Cold and Flu Care Clinic staff will

call. During this call, a nurse practitioner or physician will assess whether an in-person physical assessment is needed, or the patient is able to return home with health teaching and advice.

COVID-19 testing and vaccine information can also be found on the South Georgian Bay Ontario Health Team website here: [www.southgeorgianbayoht.ca](http://www.southgeorgianbayoht.ca)

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**About the South Georgian Bay Ontario Health Team (SGB OHT)**

The SGB OHT is a new model of organizing and delivering health care that better connects patients and providers in their communities to improve patient outcomes. We are comprised of eleven anchor partners and a strong network of supporting community organizations. SGB OHT members collaborate with patients, families, caregivers, and the community to co-design the best possible care for our region. To learn more about SGB OHT or get involved please visit [www.southgeorgianbayoht.ca](http://www.southgeorgianbayoht.ca) or follow us on Facebook [@SGBOHT](https://www.facebook.com/SGBOHT) and Twitter [@SGBOHT](https://twitter.com/SGBOHT)

“We strive to be the healthiest community in Canada”

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