

SouthWesthealthline.ca key source for holiday health care options

NEWS

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The winter season brings with it an increased demand for health services in tandem with holiday closures between Christmas and New Year's. Knowing where to go for health care is key for many individuals and families this time of year.

SouthWesthealthline.ca is a free, comprehensive on-line resource featuring up-to-date information on services available for non-emergency medical needs across communities in southwestern Ontario.

"Access to information about where you can go for health needs is especially important during the holidays as emergency departments are very busy this time of year," says Donna Ladouceur, Interim Co-CEO and Vice President of Home and Community Care, South West LHIN. "We encourage members of the public to access SouthWesthealthline.ca when they are looking for help with non-emergency medical issues over the holidays."

The site's [Holiday Hours page](#) lists information on hours of service, contact numbers and maps for medical walk-in clinics, urgent care centres, pharmacies with extended hours, and crisis intervention assistance. Since launching the page in June 2016, it has been visited more than 6,000 times. The goal is to help inform people of medical resources other than hospital emergency departments that are open and available during statutory holidays.

"The site is a trusted and comprehensive source of health and community services right at your fingertips listing 5,162 services from 2,179 health care organizations," says Michael Robbins, Executive Director, thehealthline.ca Information Network. "We want people in our communities to be aware of this resource as a tool to assist people in navigating the health system by way of local health information not only during the holiday season, but year round."

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