

PRESS RELEASE

New Community Health Clinic opens to serve Markham and Stouffville area residents in need of primary care

The clinic will provide primary health care to patients until they are able to find a family doctor or nurse practitioner

Stouffville, ON (May 9, 2023) – Oak Valley Health, in partnership with the Eastern York Region North Durham Ontario Health Team (EYRND OHT) and Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy, is pleased to announce the opening of a new Community Health Clinic. The clinic will open on May 15, 2023, to provide health care access for individuals without a primary care provider, as well as care to individuals with COVID-19 symptoms. The clinic builds on the success the partners had in operating the COVID-19, Cold, and Flu Care Clinic (CCFCC).

A need for primary care in the community was identified, specifically for the unattached patient population, and as such, the Community Health Clinic was formed to serve Markham, Stouffville, and surrounding areas.

Staffed by physicians and nurse practitioners (NPs), the clinic will serve as the gateway for health care for unattached patients to access primary care – from an initial appointment, to follow ups, and referrals as needed. Access to interprofessional care providers will be available.

The Community Health Clinic is meant to be a bridge for these patients until they find permanent primary care.

Patients over the age of six months can be seen at the clinic.

Symptoms and conditions that can be assessed and treated at the clinic include:

- Cough, cold and flu
- Ear aches
- Sprains and contusions
- Wounds and cellulitis
- Minor lacerations
- Abscesses
- STIs
- UTIs
- Skin ailments
- Infections
- Gastroenteritis
- Chronic conditions including hypertension, CHF, diabetes, COPD

Additional services that can be provided include:

- Cancer screening – to arrange PAP smear, colonoscopy or mammogram
- Prescription renewals
- Work-related assessments and notes
- Pregnancy testing

In addition, the clinic will also continue to provide services to all patients who are exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms and minor respiratory illness who cannot access their primary care provider.

The Community Health Clinic is located inside Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy, unit 5, 5402 Main St, Whitchurch-Stouffville. The clinic will be open from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is not a walk-in clinic, all patients will need to register for appointments online at <https://www.oakvalleyhealth.ca/community-health-clinic/>.

The opening of the Community Health Clinic reinforces Oak Valley Health's commitment to delivering an extraordinary patient experience for the communities it serves.

With the opening of the Community Health Clinic, the COVID-19, Cold, and Flu Care Clinic, currently located at Oak Valley Health's Markham Stouffville Hospital, will officially close its doors on May 10, 2023. For over three years, the CCFCC provided support to the community and staff for COVID-19 assessments, testing, and therapeutics. A true partnership with the EYRND OHT, the CCFCC has provided 219,445 swabs since opening its doors on March 18, 2020.

Quotes

"We've heard loud and clear that primary care for the unattached population is a much needed resource, and we are working with our partners to continue to provide the communities we serve with safe and reliable health care services. We are grateful to Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy and our EYRND OHT partners for their collaboration to allow us to provide care beyond our walls." –*Jo-anne Marr, President & CEO, Oak Valley Health*

"What makes this clinic model unique is that not only are we able to see patients who do not have a primary care provider to coordinate their care, we also have access and are able to refer to partners in the community – such as acute care, specialists, and diagnostic imaging – to ensure the patient care is fully supported. It is our goal to see as many patients through this clinic as we can so that we can alleviate the Emergency Department and help people feel better faster." –*Dr. Cristina Popa, Medical Director and Physician Lead, EYRND OHT*

"I am pleased to be able to support our local hospital with the opening of the first and only community health clinic in Stouffville. This is a much needed resource for our community and I am happy to be a partner of this initiative." –*Mina Twfic, Owner, Well Plus Compounding Pharmacy*

"I am thrilled to see the opening of the Community Health Clinic in Stouffville. This is a significant step forward in providing accessible and quality health care to our community. Residents of Stouffville can now receive the care they need closer to home, which is vital for their overall health and well-being." – *Iain Lovatt, Mayor of Stouffville*

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About Oak Valley Health:

Oak Valley Health is one of Ontario's leading community healthcare organizations. Across our two hospitals, Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) and Uxbridge Hospital (UXB), as well as our Reactivation Care Centre (RCC), we provide high quality, patient-centred care to more than 437,000 patients each year. We offer diagnostic and emergency services and deliver clinical programs in acute care medicine and surgery, addictions and mental health, and childbirth and children's services. We are proud to be part of the Eastern York Region North Durham Ontario Health Team (EYRND OHT). Our 551 professional staff (including physicians, midwives, and dentists) over 3,000 staff and over 790 volunteers serve patients and families with an honoured to care mindset and are focused on delivering an extraordinary patient experience to the residents of Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge, and beyond. Oakvalleyhealth.ca

About the Eastern York Region North Durham Ontario Health Team:

The Eastern York Region North Durham (EYRND) Ontario Health Team (OHT) is one of the first OHTs in the province of Ontario. Established in December 2019, the EYRND OHT's mandate is to facilitate and coordinate connected, seamless, people-centred care 24/7 for local residents. As its initial focus, the EYRND OHT endeavours to support individuals with mental health and addiction, people living with dementias, and their caregivers.

The EYRND OHT serves the Township of Uxbridge, located within the Regional Municipality of Durham (Durham Region); and the City of Markham, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Community of Thornhill, located within the Regional Municipality of York (York Region).

The EYRND OHT's members include: Residents, caregivers; individuals with lived experience; primary care providers; 360°kids; Addiction Services for York Region (ASYR); Alzheimer Society of Durham Region (ASDR); Alzheimer Society of York Region (AS York); Carefirst Seniors & Community Services Association; Canadian Mental Health Association York and South Simcoe; Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS); Durham Region; East Markham Family Health Organization; Entité 4; Krasman Centre; Markham Family Health Team; Markham Family Health Organization; Markham Family Medicine Teaching Unit Health for All Family Health Team; Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH); Unionville Home Society (UHS); SE Health; SRT MedStaff; York Region; and York Support Services Network (YSSN).

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