

NEWSBULLETIN

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Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives reports on Ontario hospital deficits

In a report titled *Failure by Design*, released in Toronto on May 11, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives calls for an immediate increase in hospital funding of \$3.2 billion and for hospitals to be fully funded for all of their costs (about 6% a year) to meet the needs of an aging, growing population.

The report's author, Andrew Longhurst, also calls for a health workforce strategy to ensure that the staff, beds and infrastructure grow in proportion to the demand for hospital services.

The report is being released in 15 communities and in a Zoom media conference for media in northwestern Ontario, between May 11 and 21. Read the report at: www.ochu.on.ca



Andes Hantavirus possible airborne transmission; enhanced safety precautions recommended

Six people who were on the cruise ship *Hondius*, or who may have been exposed during air travel, are currently isolating in Canada following an outbreak of Andes hantavirus associated with the vessel.

Hantaviruses are usually spread to humans through contact with infected rodents or their urine, droppings, or saliva. Human-to-human transmission is extremely rare; however, the Andes hantavirus strain identified in this outbreak is the only hantavirus known to spread between people, typically through close and prolonged contact.

Because the exact mechanisms of person-to-person transmission are not fully understood, a precautionary approach is recommended when assessing or caring for suspected cases.



Protest May 6 at Peterborough Regional Health Centre

Cruelty-free coffee day in Peterborough

Does Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PHRC) own the Tim Horton’s franchise where staff are paid just over minimum wage, injuries are frequent and many staff feel disrespected? The hospital won’t say.

Tim Horton’s employees at PHRC, in bargaining for a new contract, held a **Cruelty-free coffee day** on May 6, attended by hospital staff and supporters from Hamilton, Toronto and across central Ontario.

The rally included a coffee truck, which the hospital ordered off its property.

PHRC contracted-out ‘retail food’ operations a number of years ago. Compass manages the Tim Horton’s franchise and cafeteria. CUPE local 1943’s goal is to bring the work back in house, says President Lisa Barker.

Airborne, contact, and droplet precautions should be considered, including use of fit-tested N95 respirators, gowns, gloves, and eye/face protection. At this time, potential first points of contact may include community health workers, paramedics, and Emergency Department personnel.

More on Hantavirus

Dr. Bryce Warner, research scientist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization and professor at the University of Saskatchewan says that “Hantavirus is also contracted through inhalation, like Coronaviruses, but it replicates much more slowly. It really takes unique circumstances for hantavirus to spread from person to person, like very prolonged close contact with someone who is showing those signs and symptoms and is quite ill. The longer incubation period and difference in disease progression means hantavirus doesn’t spread readily from person to person.”



CUPE local 4000 president Rob Gauthier at rally May 4 protesting 400 job cuts at the Ottawa Hospital