

**For Immediate Release:****Jan. 4, 2022****London Health Sciences Centre reduces surgeries,  
takes additional steps to manage impact of Omicron variant**

(LONDON, Ontario) – Following Provincial directives, effective tomorrow, Jan. 5, 2022 at 12:01 a.m., London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) will significantly reduce surgeries and diagnostic imaging to include only urgent and emergent cases, as the Omicron variant puts strain on the system, including staffing and resources.

Urgent and emergent appointments or procedures are those services that are required within seven days as determined by the health-care provider.

Additional changes will include:

- Transitioning ambulatory or outpatient appointments from in-person to virtual where appropriate
- Focusing resources on clinics that support hospital diversion or discharge

Any patient whose appointment or procedure is impacted will receive direct communication from their care team. Patients who have not been contacted should come to their scheduled appointment.

**About London Health Sciences Centre**

As one of Canada's largest acute-care teaching hospitals, LHSC is dedicated to providing exceptional patient care, while championing the spirit of medical advancement through teaching practices and breakthrough research. For 146 years, LHSC has been an integral part of the London community offering compassionate medical care for its people, as well as those across the Southwestern Ontario region, and the world. National and international medical firsts have been pioneered at LHSC, including the discovery of vinblastine and the

use of cobalt radiation transforming the lives of people across the globe. Through collaborative partnerships with Western University and over 30 educational institutions, more than 1,800 health care professionals actively seek out training opportunities each year at LHSC, acknowledging the opportunity to work alongside some of Canada's top medical scholars. With more than 15,000 staff, physicians, and residents, LHSC is committed to achieving its vision '*Working together to shape the future of health*'. More information about LHSC can be found at [www.lhsc.on.ca](http://www.lhsc.on.ca).

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**After-hours assistance:**

Call LHSC Switchboard at 519-685-8500 and ask to page the communicator on-call

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