

**Date:** June 4, 2021

**To:** Physicians and Staff – St. Therese - St. Paul Healthcare Centre

**From:** Cindy Harmata, Senior Operating Officer, Areas 5-8

**RE:** Temporary bed closures at St. Therese - St. Paul Healthcare Centre

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As you are aware, the St. Therese - St. Paul Healthcare Centre is currently facing a temporary staff shortage.

Due to a high number of Registered Nurse (RN) and LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) vacancies at the facility, Alberta Health Services (AHS) has made the decision to temporarily reduce the number of acute care beds from 30 to 20 until August 31, 2021

This will allow us to reduce staffing needs and focus on providing quality care to our patients. As necessary, nursing staff from the Elk Point Healthcare Centre will temporarily be redeployed to support the St. Therese - St. Paul Healthcare Centre.

All existing emergency services will remain open.

We understand this decision may create concern in your community, but be assured here are no plans to reduce health care services in St. Paul.

The St. Therese - St. Paul Healthcare is an important facility that provide quality care and AHS wants it to be operating safely at full capacity as soon as possible.

This is a temporary measure to ensure we are providing safe and high quality health care to our patients and a quality work environment for you, our physicians and staff.

We commend the work you have all done as we navigate this temporary staffing shortage and continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Please know that your dedication and teamwork is very much valued and appreciated.

Cindy Harmata  
Senior Operating Officer, Areas 5-8, AHS North Zone