

For Immediate Release | February 27, 2019

Maternity services at CMH temporarily suspended

WILLIAMS LAKE – Due to an unexpected and critical shortage of maternity nurses, Cariboo Memorial Hospital (CMH) has regrettably decided to temporarily suspend inpatient obstetrical services.

This decision was made for the safety of expectant mothers and their babies while Interior Health secures staffing for this service.

Interior Health and physicians in Williams Lake and 100 Mile House are working together to notify all expectant mothers individually of this change in care and to support them in making arrangements for a stay in another community, such as Kamloops or Prince George, where they can safely deliver their babies.

Interior Health is exploring all options to reinstate this service in Williams Lake as quickly as possible and will keep local communities updated on any changes.

Maternity nurses at CMH provide labour, delivery, post-delivery care and nursery coverage.

Currently, seven nurses are being trained in full-scope maternity care to support CMH. Two nurses will complete their education in June and the other five in December of 2019.

As well, Interior Health is recruiting for these specialized nurses nationally and internationally.

We apologize for the disruption in the lives of these families. A number of unforeseen circumstances contributed to this unexpected shortfall of these specially trained nurses at CMH.

-30-

Interior Health is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and providing a wide range of quality health-care services to more than 740,000 people living across B.C.'s vast interior. For more information, visit www.interiorhealth.ca, follow us on Twitter [@Interior_Health](https://twitter.com/Interior_Health), or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/InteriorHealth.

Media, for information:

Media@interiorhealth.ca

1-844-469-7077