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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Jan 16, 2020

**Hamilton Public Health closes Dayside Café due to Listeria contamination**

Hamilton, Jan. 16, 2020 – The Dayside Café, a food vendor service located within the grounds of the Hamilton General Hospital, closed under an order from Hamilton Public Health due to Listeria contamination.

“We are fully cooperating with the Hamilton Public Health investigation surrounding this incident,” said Hamilton Health Sciences CEO Rob MacIsaac. “I have called for a review of all hospital food handling practices and requirements for outside vendors to identify areas of improvement and ensure an incident like this does not happen again.”

One elderly patient who visited the café and was affected by the ailment has died. Details will not be released at the request of the deceased’s family.

Hamilton Public Health reports three cases of Listeria infection have been traced back to food sold at the Dayside Café between Jan. 10 and Jan. 14. The café sells specialty coffees, fruit smoothies, made-to-order sandwiches and bagels.

Listeria belongs to a family of bacteria common in our environment and is usually harmless. However, Listeria monocytogenes is one strain of Listeria that can cause harm. Food that has not been properly cooked, refrigerated or has been in contact with contaminated cooking surfaces may contain the Listeria strain.

Symptoms of Listeriosis include nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea or constipation, headaches and fever and can appear within two to 70 days after exposure. Pregnant women, newborns, elderly and those with weak immune systems are most at risk of contracting the illness. Hamilton General Hospital is asking anyone who may have eaten products from the café and exhibits any symptoms of illness to seek advice from a medical professional.

**MORE**

Hamilton Health Sciences is a community of 15,000 staff, physicians, researchers and volunteers who provide specialized, advanced care to people from across the province. Its mission is to provide excellent health care to the people and communities it serves and to advance health care through education and research. <https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/about-us/our-organization/>

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