

Emergency Departments may not be available when you need them in rural Canada

Across Canada, doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health care providers are working hard to keep hospitals and emergency departments open to ALL Canadians.

This summer, many emergency departments in small hospitals have had to close. You should be able to access care when and where you need it, especially in an emergency.

This is a crisis for rural Canada!



Dots are not representative of ALL the closures. To help us identify closures in rural towns, communities and urban centers, please fill out our Closure Survey.

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada is working to ensure that the voices of rural physicians, hospitals, and communities are heard. Your voice matters too! You can **join us** in that important work by letting your mayor, your provincial MPP (or MLA) and your federal MP know that rural Canada deserves better.

In the meantime, to help doctors and nurses who are working hard to provide care in ERs that are open, here are some tips to ensure you **DON'T** need to seek care when you are traveling in rural communities.



Be safe — wear your lifejacket boating, be careful with campfires, wear your helmet when cycling, wear sunscreen



Plan ahead for medications — make sure you travel with the medications you need



Instead of the rural ER, see a primary care family physician for things that can be managed in the office



Use virtual care options for simple things like bladder infections, runny noses, or minor illness



Stay up to date on your vaccines



Stay away from others if you are feeling unwell — this helps prevent others from also becoming sick and needing care

If you do need to seek care, please remember that doctors and nurses are doing their best in difficult times.

Be kind, be patient, offer your thanks.

Rural physicians and their teams want to be there for you and for all of rural Canada. Again, please help us by letting your MPP/MLA and MP know that rural health care services matter to you.