

# Kenmore Mercy, Mt. St. Mary's receive Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence designation



Chief Medical Officer Dr. Thomas Cumbo (center) and Mount St. Mary's Hospital President CJ Urlaub (far right), join (from left) Pharmacy Manager Dimitra Bitikofor and pharmacy staffers Saloni Patel, Courtney Jarka and Alyssa Kiel.

Kenmore Mercy Hospital and Mount St. Mary's Hospital were recently awarded the Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence designation by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. The Catholic Health hospitals are two of 145 programs worldwide to receive this prestigious recognition, which is considered the industry's gold standard in antimicrobial stewardship.

A press release stated, "While antibiotics are essential to modern medicine and can be life-saving medications, their overuse can breed resistance and cause unwanted side effects. In fact, antibiotic-resistant infections are the third-leading-cause of death in this country."

"Kenmore Mercy Hospital and Mount St. Mary's Hospital are taking important steps to fight antimicrobial resistance with their robust antimicrobial stewardship programs, with the goal to ensure the appropriate use of antibiotics

for every patient. This includes selecting the correct antibiotic at the right dose, duration and route, which leads to targeted treatment while limiting adverse effects, better use of resources and, in most cases, decreased health care costs."

An Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence two-year designation is given to stewardship programs led by physicians and pharmacists trained in infectious diseases who have achieved the highest standards set by the joint guidelines of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs.

The press release noted, "Kenmore Mercy and Mount St. Mary's Hospitals' programs consist of a collaborative multidisciplinary team dedicated to ongo-

ing staff and patient education efforts and continuous monitoring of antimicrobial use to optimize patient care."

Sara DiTursi is the clinical pharmacy specialist in infectious diseases and site lead for antimicrobial stewardship at Kenmore Mercy Hospital. She said, "Our antimicrobial stewardship programs empower our health care providers to work together to select the right antibiotic, at the right dose, and for the right duration to continually advance the quality and safety of patient care and decrease antibiotic resistance."

Saloni Patel, Pharm.D., stewardship site lead at Mount St. Mary's, said, "What makes our hospitals excel is a combination of strong foundational activities, coupled with stewardship programs that few others are doing."

Sisters of Charity Hospital and Mercy Hospital of Buffalo received their designations from

## Catholic Health imposes temporary visitor restrictions

In response to the surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations and the high rate of coronavirus transmission throughout Western New York, Catholic Health is temporarily suspending visitations at its hospitals, with few exceptions, beginning Friday, Jan. 14.

Catholic Health officials made the decision in consultation with its infection control specialists to protect the health and safety of patients and staff at:

- ✓ Kenmore Mercy Hospital
- ✓ Mercy Hospital of Buffalo
- ✓ Mount St. Mary's Hospital
- ✓ Sisters of Charity Hospital and its St. Joseph Campus

"While we are not required to suspend visitation at this time, we think it is the wise thing to do based on what we are seeing in the community," said Mark

Sullivan, president and CEO of Catholic Health. "Throughout this pandemic, our first obligation has been to provide the safest environment for our patients and caregivers."

Exceptions to Catholic Health's visitor restrictions will be made in certain circumstances, such as for patients receiving end-of-life care; for birth partners of maternity patients; and for essential support persons of patients with special needs, including those with mental or physical disabilities. Emergency department and surgical patients may have one support person accompany them to the hospital with certain limitations. All visitors will be subject to a verbal health screening, temperature scan, and other infection control protocols.

the IDSA earlier this year.

"Having all our hospitals named Centers of Excellence in Antimicrobial Stewardship is a significant achievement for our system," said Dr. Kevin Shiley, who serves as medical director of infection prevention, and leads Catholic Health's antimicrobial stewardship program along with Benjamin Daigler, Pharm.D., from Mercy Hospital of Buffalo.

"As hospitals continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded that antimicrobial resistance threatens

our ability to treat patients each and every day," said Barbara D. Alexander, M.D., MHS, FIDSA, president of the IDSA, which represents over 12,000 physicians, scientists and other health care professionals who specialize in infectious diseases. "Our Centers of Excellence program recognizes hospitals that exhibit the innovation and leadership needed to have an impact against antimicrobial resistance and have instituted practices for others to emulate."

## Women United has success with hygiene drive

Organizers of Women United of Greater Niagara's personal hygiene drive, which ran throughout the month of November, said the initiative was a great success. They collected goods, including feminine hygiene products, deodorant, tissues, shampoo and lotion, which will be donated to support local agencies including Northpoint Council's First Step Center; Niagara Wheatfield's Caring Closet; Heart, Love & Soul; Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's Center for Teen Moms and Kids; Salva-

tion Army of Tonawanda; Salvation Army of Niagara Falls; Pinnacle Community Services; YWCA's Carolyn's House; Youth Mentoring Services; and Immaculata Home.

Donations were collected by Women United members and nursing students at D'Youville College. Other collection sites and/or places that supplied large donations of both personal hygiene supplies and tote bags used to organize the products at the end of the drive, included BankOnBuffalo, Maple Avenue School, Salon Diaz, North-

west Bank and National Grid.

Women United of Greater Niagara is a group of community-minded women who work with United Way of Greater Niagara to improve lives.

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## TOWN OF WHEATFIELD 2022 Town/County Tax Notice

### NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF TAX ROLL AND WARRANT

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE AS FOLLOWS:

**Mail Payments to:** Kathleen Harrington-McDonell, Town Clerk  
2800 Church Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

**Pay in Person:** Wheatfield Town Hall, Town Clerk  
2800 Church Road  
Mon-Tues -Thurs-Fri 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Wed- 8:00 am – 7:00 pm January only

**There is a drop box located at Town Hall for your convenience**

**Pay online at [www.wheatfield.ny.us](http://www.wheatfield.ny.us)**

**Payments can no longer be made at the bank**

**LAST DAY TO PAY WITHOUT PENALTY IS January 31, 2022**

All Taxes received after such date, there shall be added interest of 1% to 02/28/22 and 2% to 03/31/22, after such date all County Taxes are payable to the county Treasurer with 5% penalty and interest calculated at a rate of 1% per month on the tax and penalty.



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**Sat., Jan 15th, 2022**  
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### Handling winter's cold

If your winter plans include cold weather sports and activities, remember that winter sports demand that you be in shape. Just walking outside in freezing cold can intensify older joint problems if you don't take the proper precautions to bundle up. In cold weather, muscles and blood vessels contract to conserve body heat. This results in reduced blood supply to the extremities. If you are out of shape, you will be the first to notice many muscles functioning at a significantly lower capacity. To help the body meet this challenge, try warming up and stretching before heading out into the cold. Focus on lower back muscles, hamstrings, and calf muscles. Don't forget to stretch when you are finished exercising too.

**If you must shovel snow, bend your knees and let your legs and arms do the work. Lift small amounts at one time. Should you sprain your back, you most likely have also misaligned your spine as well. Chiropractic is the treatment of choice for a fast and effective recovery.**

Remember to drink more water, at least a quart and a half a day as with the drier winter air many people get dehydrated. Many symptoms of common ailments can be signs of dehydration. So if you feel ill or have aches, pains, headaches, dry skin, digestive troubles and have not been drinking enough water, this is a good place to start.

**Rose Chiropractic, P.C. located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston, is a natural health care practice focusing on health improvement through Nutrition Response Testing<sup>SM</sup> and chiropractic. New patients are welcome. Call (716)754-9039**