

Media Release

August 27, 2008

For immediate release

St. Joseph's responds to meat products recall

London, Ontario – St. Joseph's Health Care, London is one of many organizations throughout Canada that used Maple Leaf Foods products from the facility known as *establishment 97B* before these items were recalled. The moment St. Joseph's was notified of the national recall by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the products were immediately removed from all kitchens and retail services. An alternate supplier was found for deli meat products.

Prior to the recall these products were served to some patient and resident groups at all but one of St. Joseph's major care facilities. These facilities are Parkwood Hospital, Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care and Regional Mental Health Care, London and St. Thomas. Products were not in use for patients at St. Joseph's Hospital.

The products were also available to staff and visitors through retail establishments such as the cafeterias.

To date there have been no reported cases of Listeriosis among patients, residents, or staff. Our infection control team is working closely with all nursing units to monitor for possible cases of Listeriosis and will continue to do so until the end of the incubation period.

"Patient safety is of the utmost importance, and we are in constant communication with the Middlesex-London Health Unit and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to stay apprised of any new recall developments," states Glen Kearns, integrated vice president, clinical support services. "We are confident we have taken all immediate and necessary actions to respond to this most unfortunate issue and will continue to advise our patients, families, staff and care providers of any new information as it pertains to St. Joseph's."

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St. Joseph's Health Care, London is a major patient care, teaching and research centre with a distinguished legacy of service to London, Southwestern Ontario and the veterans of Canada, dating back more than 130 years. St. Joseph's five key role areas include acute/ambulatory care, complex care and veterans care, long-term care, rehabilitation and specialized geriatrics and specialized mental health care. Facilities and services including St. Joseph's Hospital, Parkwood Hospital, Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care and Regional Mental Health Care London and St. Thomas are part of the St. Joseph's family. Our research arm, the Lawson Health Research Institute, continues to direct their research to the development of new knowledge that is continually being applied directly to patient care. More than 400,000 patients annually receive care from close to 6,000 physicians and staff at St. Joseph's. St. Joseph's is affiliated with the University of Western Ontario.