



## P.E.I. hospital beds to close over holidays

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Island health officials announced Friday that there would be some temporary hospital bed closures for the holiday season.

Four hospitals are affected:

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital will close 39 beds.

Prince County Hospital will close 16 beds.

Kings County Memorial hospital will close five beds.

Souris Hospital will close four beds.

"For roughly the same periods between the 20th or so and the 3rd to the 5th of January," Keith Dewar, CEO for Health P.E.I., said of the closures.

He said the closures are needed for two reasons.

"To allow staff to get some time off through this holiday season, we do need to slow things down a little bit," said Dewar. "The second thing is that there is a natural slow down that occurs over Christmas."

The number of elective surgeries will be reduced for two weeks at both the Prince County Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Dewar noted that emergency services and day surgeries would not be affected.