



**Media Statement – COVID-19 Outbreak at Westside Long Term Care Home – Toronto
- Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera**

April 3, 2021

Toronto Public Health declared an outbreak of COVID-19 in a portion of Westside Long Term Care Home in Toronto on April 2 after one staff member tested positive for COVID-19 as part of ongoing staff surveillance testing. The staff member is in self-isolation at home. Residents who had contact with the affected staff member and all staff will be swabbed at the direction of Public Health. The home has been in suspect outbreak since March 17 when a different staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

We are working very closely with Public Health officials and are following strict pandemic outbreak protocols and infection control practices. All residents are monitored twice daily for symptoms.

All staff are screened at the beginning and end of their shifts and are being cohorted to work in assigned resident areas. All staff are required to wear an appropriate mask and eye protection in the home.

Enhanced cleaning is being done at Westside. We frequently disinfect high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, common areas and staff rooms.

At the direction of Public Health, all residents on the second floor are to remain in their rooms at all times with contact and droplet precautions in place. Individual recreation activities will be continued to maintain social engagement during this period of isolation. Residents on other home areas are not affected by this outbreak.

Most Westside residents who consented and were able to be vaccinated have now received one or both doses. Vaccinations for staff are underway.

We have informed the residents, their families and the staff of the status of the outbreak. Although general visits are suspended while the province is in lockdown, visits from essential caregivers **and** essential visits for palliative residents will be permitted.

We recognize how difficult these measures are for residents and their families. We appreciate the patience and understanding of families as we put these precautions in place for the safety of the residents.

Revera continues to do everything we can to keep our residents and employees safe as we work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at our long term care homes and retirement residences.

