



**Media Statement – Outbreak at Columbia Forest Long Term Care Home – Waterloo, ON  
- Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera**

December 14, 2020

Region of Waterloo Public Health declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Columbia Forest Long Term Care Home in Waterloo on December 14 after one staff member tested positive for COVID-19 as part of ongoing surveillance testing. The staff member is in self-isolation at home. Staff are being swabbed every week as part of ongoing staff surveillance testing. All residents will be tested at the direction of Public Health.

We are working very closely with Public Health officials and are following 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 Columbia Forest. We are frequently disinfecting high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, resident rooms, common areas and staff rooms.

At the direction of Public Health, all residents in Breithaupt House and Johnston House are to remain in their rooms at all times. Individual recreation activities will be continued to maintain social engagement during this period of isolation.

We have informed the residents, their families and the staff of the status of the outbreak. At the direction of Public Health, all visits are cancelled temporarily. Essential caregiver visits 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.