



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

December 27, 2020

On December 10, Durham Region Public Health declared a respiratory outbreak (enterovirus) at Fosterbrooke Long Term Care Home in Newcastle. As of December 26, the outbreak was revised to include COVID-19, after one staff member tested positive for the virus. The staff member is in self-isolation at home and is asymptomatic. All residents and staff will be swabbed at the direction of Public Health.

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 Fosterbrooke. We frequently disinfect high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, resident rooms, common areas and staff rooms.

At this time, all first floor residents are to remain in their rooms at all times. Individual recreation activities will continue so we can 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 indoor and outdoor visits are cancelled temporarily. 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.