



**Media Statement – COVID-19 Outbreak at Iler Lodge Long Term Care Home and Retirement Residence – Essex**

**- Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera**

December 31, 2020

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Iler Lodge Long Term Care Home and Retirement Residence in Essex on December 31 after one staff member tested positive for COVID-19 as part of weekly staff surveillance testing. The staff member is in self-isolation at home. All residents will be swabbed next week.

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

All residents are to remain in their rooms or suites at all times. Individual recreation activities will be continued to maintain social engagement during this period of isolation.

We have informed residents, their families and 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.