



**Media Statement – COVID-19 Outbreak at Briarfield Gardens Retirement Residence –
Kitchener**

- Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera

February 11, 2020

Region of Waterloo Public Health declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Briarfield Gardens retirement residence in Kitchener on February 11 after one staff member tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is in self-isolation at home.

We are working very closely with Public Health officials and are following strict pandemic outbreak protocols and infection control practices.

All staff are screened at the beginning and end of their shifts. All staff are required to wear an appropriate mask and eye protection in the residence.

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

All residents are isolated in their rooms and monitored twice daily for symptoms. The dining room is closed, and residents are receiving meals in their suites.

Group recreation programming has been replaced by individual activities with residents for social engagement.

We have informed the residents, their families and the staff of the status of the outbreak. Visits have been cancelled during the outbreak, with the exception of visits from essential caregivers and essential visits for palliative residents. We appreciate the patience and understanding of residents and their families as we take these precautions.

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 retirement residences and long term care homes.