



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

January 30, 2021

Region of Waterloo Public Health has confirmed that three residents of Columbia Forest Long Term Care Home in Waterloo have tested positive for COVID-19 since the outbreak began on December 31, 2020. Currently, there are two active cases among residents in the home.

Region of Waterloo Public Health has also confirmed that 13 staff members have tested positive for COVID-19 since the outbreak began. Twelve of these cases have resolved, and the remaining staff member is at home in self-isolation.

Region of Waterloo Public Health has informed the home that one of our staff members, who tested positive earlier in this outbreak and whose case has since resolved, was identified as having had the B.1.1.7 (“U.K.”) variant of COVID-19. This was discovered as part of random sampling intended to detect cases of the variant that may be circulating in the community. 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 Columbia Forest. We frequently disinfect high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, common areas and staff rooms.

At the direction of Public Health, all residents are to remain in their rooms at all times with contact/droplet precautions in place. Individual recreation activities will be continued to maintain social engagement during this period of isolation.

All residents at Columbia Forest who consented to and were able to be vaccinated have now received their first dose. Staff vaccinations are on-going.

We are regularly updating residents, their families and the staff on the status of the outbreak. Although general visits are suspended while the province is in lockdown, 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.