



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

January 9, 2021

Region of Waterloo Public Health declared an outbreak of COVID-19 on Eby House at Columbia Forest Long Term Care Home in Waterloo on January 8 after a fourth staff member tested positive for COVID-19 as part of ongoing staff surveillance testing. The staff members are in self-isolation at home. Another home area, Watson House, is also in outbreak; that outbreak was declared on December 31. Residents were tested on January 2 with no positive results, and residents on the affected home area were swabbed again yesterday 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 Columbia Forest. We frequently disinfect high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, resident rooms, common areas and staff rooms.

At the direction of Public Health, all residents on Watson House and Eby House 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.

Vaccinations for Columbia Forest staff have begun. The care team at Columbia Forest is prepared to support vaccinations for residents as and when directed by Public Health.

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, 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.