



**Media Statement – Update on Forest Heights Long Term Care Home – Kitchener
- Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera**

January 18, 2021

Region of Waterloo Public Health has confirmed that five staff members of Forest Heights Long Term Care Home in Kitchener have tested positive for COVID-19 since the outbreak began on December 25. Four of these cases have resolved. The remaining staff member is at home in isolation. No residents have tested positive during this outbreak.

We are working closely with Region of Waterloo Public Health officials and are maintaining pandemic outbreak protocols and infection control practices. We are doing enhanced cleaning at Forest Heights, frequently disinfecting high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, resident rooms, common areas and staff rooms.

All residents are monitored closely for symptoms twice daily and are tested if they present any potential signs or symptoms of the virus.

Staff are screened at the beginning and end of their shifts. All staff are required to wear an appropriate mask and eye protection while in the home. Staff are tested weekly for COVID-19 as part of ongoing staff surveillance testing.

All residents in the home have been asked to self-isolate in their rooms. Meals are served in resident rooms with supervision and assistance as required. To maintain stimulation and social engagement during this period of isolation, individual recreation activities continue.

Residents of Forest Heights who consented to and are able to be vaccinated have received their first dose. Vaccinations for staff are ongoing.

We are regularly updating residents, their families and staff on the status of the outbreak. At the direction of Public Health, visits are restricted to essential caregivers and essential visits for palliative residents.

We recognize how difficult these measures are for residents and their families and we appreciate their patience and understanding as we put these precautions in place for the safety of our 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.