



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

July 6, 2021

Region of Waterloo Public Health declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Columbia Forest Long Term Care Home in Waterloo on July 2 after two residents tested positive for COVID-19. A suspect outbreak was previously declared on June 27. We regret to confirm one resident passed away with COVID-19 during the outbreak. The team at Columbia Forest offers its most sincere condolences to the family and friends of the resident who passed away.

At the direction of public health, all residents in the affected home area and all staff members were tested. As of today, all resident results have come back negative. All staff member test results have returned negative with some results still outstanding.

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 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.

All Columbia Forest residents who consented to and are able to be vaccinated have now received both doses. Vaccinations for staff are ongoing.

We have informed the residents, their families and the staff of the status of the outbreak. Although general visits are suspended on the affected unit due to the outbreak, 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