



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

June 1, 2021

Region of Waterloo Public Health declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Forest Heights Long Term Care Home in Kitchener May 9 after one resident tested positive for COVID-19. The home had previously been placed into suspect outbreak on April 30 due to a staff member testing positive.

Since the outbreak was declared, two residents and five staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. Both resident cases have since resolved. Four staff cases have also resolved, and the remaining staff member is at home in isolation.

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 Forest Heights. We frequently disinfect high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, common areas and staff rooms.

At the direction of Public Health, residents on Gibbon home area no longer have to remain in their rooms at all times under contact and droplet precautions.

All Forest Heights residents who consented to and were able to be vaccinated have now received their second dose. Staff vaccinations are also ongoing.

We are regularly updating residents, their families and staff on the status of the outbreak. Outdoor general visits for all home areas are now permitted, as well as visits from essential caregivers and essential visits for palliative 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.