



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

March 23, 2021

Region of Waterloo Public Health declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Forest Heights Long Term Care Home in Kitchener on March 2 after two staff members tested positive for COVID-19 as part of ongoing staff surveillance testing. Since the outbreak was declared, four staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. Three cases have since resolved and the remaining staff member is at home in isolation.

We are working very closely with Region of Waterloo 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 Forest Heights. 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. Individual recreation activities will be continued to maintain social engagement during this period of isolation.

Most Forest Heights residents who consented to and were able to be vaccinated have now received their second dose. The remaining residents will receive their second dose in the coming weeks. Staff vaccinations are also on going.

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

