



**Media Statement – COVID-19 Outbreak at Sumac Lodge Long Term Care Home –Sarnia
- Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera**

March 23, 2021

Lambton Public Health declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Sumac Lodge Long Term Care Home in Sarnia on March 16 after one staff member tested positive for COVID-19 as part of ongoing staff surveillance testing. The staff member is in self-isolation at home. All staff members at Sumac Lodge and all residents in the West Wing were tested last week. All results returned negative. At the direction of public health, we are now proactively testing all residents at Sumac Lodge.

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 Sumac Lodge. 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 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 residents of Sumac Lodge who consented to and are able to be vaccinated have now received their second dose. 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 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.

