

March 28, 2020

11 additional residents and 3 employees test positive for COVID-19 at McKenzie Towne Continuing Care Centre – Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera

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Alberta Health Services has advised us since last night that COVID-19 tests for another 11 residents and 3 employees of McKenzie Towne Continuing Care Centre were positive, for a total of 25 positive resident tests, consisting of 23 on-site at McKenzie Towne – one resident who passed away and one who is in hospital. Four employee tests to date have been positive. We are awaiting test results for 13 residents currently in isolation for respiratory illnesses or possible COVID-19 symptoms. Ten residents who had some respiratory symptoms have returned negative tests for COVID-19.

Several of the residents who tested positive have no symptoms, which is atypical and has made identifying potential COVID-19 cases more challenging. Four of the home's eight resident areas are in full outbreak isolation now. The individuals who tested positive are all in these areas.

The other four home areas do not have residents experiencing respiratory illness or symptoms. These areas of the home are practicing pandemic protocols, including appropriate physical distancing.

In the home areas under outbreak isolation, we actively monitor all residents, and staff members follow outbreak infection control protocols. All staff with direct contact with residents with respiratory symptoms wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) while providing care. This applies to RNs, LPNs, HCAs, dietary aides, recreation and housekeeping staff.

The residents in these areas are fed their meals in their room on overbed trays. We have undertaken enhanced cleaning of the home since the pandemic was declared. This includes bringing in extra housekeeping staff to do more frequent cleaning, especially in high touch areas like doorknobs, handrails, common areas, staff rooms and seating areas. A Clorox 360 Disinfectant Cleaner is being used to do deep cleaning and disinfecting of resident rooms and common areas. To promote social distancing all recreation programming has been cancelled. Recreation staff do one-on-one activities with residents to keep them socially engaged.

We have also introduced a program where we will call all family members as often as possible, with the goal of speaking with each family every day or two, to provide updates on their loved ones during this time of physical isolation.

We appreciate the support of Alberta Health Services in maintaining adequate supplies of PPE for our staff. We are bringing in extra staffing resources to support the outbreak response. Revera continues to do everything we can to keep our residents and employees safe as we work to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 at our long term care homes and retirement residences.