



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

May 18, 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.

Region of Waterloo Public Health previously declared that four staff members and two residents had tested positive for COVID-19. After review and retesting of swabs, Public Health has rescinded two of these staff cases, noting the original tests were false positives. As of today, two residents and two staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. Both residents remain in isolation in the home. One staff case has since 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 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 on Hewson House and Gibbon home areas are to remain in their rooms at all times. Individual recreation activities will be continued to maintain social engagement during this period of isolation.

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 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.

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.