



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

April 15, 2020

We have received confirmation from Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services that, as of 12 p.m. today, we have 51 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 at Forest Heights Long Term Care Home in Kitchener. All these residents are in isolation.

We regret to inform you that a second Forest Heights resident has passed away with COVID-19. We offer our most sincere condolences to the resident’s family and friends.

There are now 27 staff members at Forest Heights who have tested positive for COVID-19. Most of those staff are at home in self-isolation. Some staff, who do not have any symptoms of COVID-19, may, at the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, return to work if they remain asymptomatic 72 hours from their test, wear appropriate PPE during their shifts, and remain on work to home self-isolation.

We are working closely with public health officials and follow strict infection control practices. All staff providing care for residents in isolation, that is a resident who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has symptoms of respiratory illness, must wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes a mask, face shield, gloves and gown, while providing care. All staff have been directed to wear a surgical mask in the home at all times.

We continue to do enhanced cleaning at Forest Heights. High touch areas like doors and handrails are receiving more frequent cleaning and common areas, resident rooms and staff rooms are being disinfected using a Clorox 360 Disinfectant Cleaner system.

We have adjusted our mealtime and recreation activities to promote physical distancing. Meals for residents in isolation are served on an over-bed tray in their rooms. The other residents are served meals in dining rooms modified for physical distancing while allowing the staff to provide supervision and assistance as required. Group recreation programs have been replaced by one-on-one activities to maintain social engagement.

We continue to update residents, their families and the staff on the status of the outbreak. We will continue to reach out to all families of residents as often as possible to provide updates on their loved ones during this time of physical isolation.

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.

