



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

May 2, 2020

As of today, we have had 152 residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, including two confirmed in the past 24 hours. We are grieving the loss of the 36 Forest Heights residents who have succumbed to the virus since the outbreak began, and extend our deepest condolences to these families for their loss. A total of 52 staff members are confirmed to have tested positive; 12 employees are now considered recovered.

We are very grateful to Region of Waterloo Public Health and the Waterloo-Wellington Health System Response Team for working with us to find the best way to serve our Forest Heights residents and staff.

To date, we are pleased to report that Grand River Hospital, St. Mary's General Hospital and Cambridge Memorial Hospital have accepted temporary resident transfers to available beds in their hospitals. We look forward to returning these people to the home at the appropriate time.

We appreciate the support of Ontario Health West Region, which assigned 12 PSWs to Forest Heights on a temporary basis to provide relief for the front line caregivers who have been working long hours throughout the outbreak. Revera's recruitment team has also succeeded in hiring 20 additional staff to bolster a variety of roles in the home.

The team at Forest Heights continues to work very closely with Region of Waterloo Public Health officials on pandemic outbreak protocols, as we have since the beginning of the outbreak, by providing information and implementing recommendations on infection prevention and control and case management.

We want to honour the amazing contributions of our front line staff at Forest Heights—the nurses, PSWs, dietary aides and the recreation, environmental, culinary and administrative staff who have been working fearlessly and tirelessly to care for our residents during the home's pandemic outbreak. The Forest Heights team's compassion, courage and determination to do their best for the people in their care has been truly impressive.