



**Media Statement – COVID-19 Outbreak at Iler Lodge Long Term Care Home and Retirement Residence – Essex**

**- Dr. Rhonda Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Revera**

October 30, 2020

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit declared an outbreak of COVID-19 at Iler Lodge Long Term Care Home and Retirement Residence in Essex on October 30 after one staff member of the long term care home tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member is in self-isolation at home. Contact tracing has been done, and all residents who may have had exposure are being swabbed at the direction of Public Health. Their families have been notified.

We are working very closely with Public Health officials and are following 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. As part of biweekly surveillance clinics, staff were tested for COVID-19 on October 28. Based on contact tracing, those staff members who may have had exposure will be tested again today.

Enhanced cleaning is being done at Iler Lodge. We are frequently disinfecting high touch surfaces like handrails and doors, resident rooms, common areas and staff rooms. Additional deep cleaning is being done in the affected areas.

All residents on the second floor of the long term care home have been placed in isolation and are to remain in their rooms. One on one recreation activities will be continued for these residents to maintain social engagement during this period of isolation.

We are informing the residents, their families and the staff of the status of the outbreak. At the direction of Public Health, all indoor and outdoor visits are cancelled temporarily. Essential caregiver visits and essential visits for palliative residents will be permitted.

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.