



Seventh Staff Member Tests Positive for COVID-19 at The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

Monday, April 20, 2020 – Ottawa, Ontario

Ottawa, April 20, 2020: The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre has confirmed that a Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) working on Ottawa 1 East and a Housekeeping Aid working on Gatineau 1 South have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. This brings to seven the number of staff testing positive for the virus.

All residents are being closely monitored for symptoms. To date, none of the Health Centre's residents has tested positive for COVID-19.

As announced on April 18, the Perley Rideau has arranged for COVID-19 testing for all residents and staff. Testing is underway onsite with more than 350 residents and staff members swabbed since April 18. The team is taking a risk-based approach to testing for residents and staff that will be completed before the end of the week.

Ottawa Public Health and others indicate that known cases are just the tip of the iceberg. Many carriers of the COVID-19 virus never show symptoms. These tests are one of the only ways we have of knowing if our preventative actions are working.

Perley Rideau is committed to open and transparent communications with staff, residents and families as the test results are received. Additional safety precautions are adopted as required.

With guidance from Public Health Ontario received earlier today, the Perley Rideau is requiring all staff to wear procedural masks. To promote social distancing, all staff lounges will close on April 21st and staff will be provided access to conference rooms to maintain social distancing during breaks and meals.

Residents are in good spirits, particularly those taking advantage of virtual communication via phone, Skype and Facetime.

"We have a duty to the frail and elderly members of our community and our dedicated healthcare workers and staff to do everything in our power to provide them with the information and the tools they need to make critical life decisions," says Perley Rideau CEO Akos Hoffer. "Thanks to the ongoing support of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care, Public Health Ontario and Ottawa Public Health, we continue to advance the protections for our community."

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre is one of the largest and most progressive long-term care homes in Ontario. In addition to the 450 long-term and short-stay care beds for Veterans and members of the public, the Perley Rideau campus includes a Seniors Village with independent-living apartments for 200 seniors. It employs a staff of more than 850.

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