



COVID-19 Outbreak Declared at The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

Ottawa, April 16, 2020: Facility-wide anti-COVID-19 precautions have been implemented at The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. Throughout the Health Centre, enhanced infection control precautions have been implemented even though just two of the Health Centre's staff have tested positive.

The two affected employees, an RPN and a PSW, worked separate shifts in the Ottawa 1 East (Convalescence) and Gatineau 2 South units. Both employees are resting comfortably in isolation at home. Their symptoms are reported as mild.

To date, none of the Health Centre's residents has tested positive for COVID-19.

In addition to the measures already in force prior to these two positive tests, management has ordered the following risk-based measures:

- All residents, on affected units, are confined to their rooms;
- Priority COVID-19 testing and ongoing screening for all staff and residents;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is being provided to manage risk and support resident and staff safety;
- Masking of all residents while in transit outside of their rooms;
- Cancellation of all resident activities to accommodate 1:1 programming including Skype and FaceTime communications between residents and loved ones;
- Redeployment of staff to meet resident needs and changes in the work environment;
- Universal masking for all staff while in the Health Centre.

"The health and safety of our residents and staff are our number one priority," says Perley Rideau CEO Akos Hoffer. "We are counting on all of our healthcare partners and our donors to ensure that the resources we require are available when we need them."

The outbreak precautions are part of the Perley Rideau's enhanced COVID-19 Infection Control Plan. They were ordered by management after Ottawa Public Health confirmed that two (2) employees of the not-for-profit residence had been exposed to the virus outside of the Health Centre.

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 care beds for Veterans and members of the public, the Perley Rideau campus includes a Seniors Village with 139 independent-living apartments. It employs a staff of more than 850.

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For additional information:

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