



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

Sunday, April 19, 2020 – Ottawa, Ontario

Ottawa, April 19, 2020: The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre has confirmed that a Registered Practical Nurse (RPN), working on the Rideau 1 North Unit on April 17th has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. This brings to five 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 on-site with more than 150 residents and staff members swabbed since Noon, 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. 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.

Many measures have already been taken to protect residents and staff including:

- Contact tracing of staff movement and interactions;
- Twice-daily active screening of residents and staff;
- Universal masking of staff;
- Additional housekeeping dedicated to the units where the affected staff members worked;
- Restricted staff movement between buildings and on units.

Residents are in good spirits, particularly those taking advantage of virtual communication with loved ones on Skype. Staff are hosting an average of 250 communications each week.

As a contingency, a 20-bed unit has been readied should an isolation unit be required for residents.

“Our goal is simple: keep the virus from spreading while maximizing residents' quality of life,” says Perley Rideau CEO Akos Hoffer. “Our success so far results directly from the outstanding efforts of our partners and staff – men and women who are showing remarkable dedication and professionalism during this crisis.”

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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