



## Swab-a-Palooza Generates More Than 700 Tests on Staff for COVID-19 at The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

June 10, 2020 – Ottawa, Ontario

The Perley Rideau team of “Swab Bosses” launched “Swab-a-Palooza” earlier this week to conduct more than 700 COVID-19 tests on staff this week, in accordance with Ministry guidance.

Since June 5th, there have been more than 1,000 swab tests for COVID-19 on staff and residents of the Perley Rideau. Performed at the Perley Rideau and the COVID-19 Assessment Centre, the tests returned have come back negative for the virus.

Since the start of the pandemic there have been 1190 tests on residents and 1844 staff tests.

On June 1st, the Ministry of Long-Term Care released a memo stating that the province is requiring continued surveillance of long-term care home staff effective immediately. This means that all long-term care employees are being swabbed for the virus at two-week intervals. This policy is well-aligned with the Perley Rideau approach for outbreak management and aggressive surveillance. The next round of staff swab tests are scheduled for June 17th.

Since the Ottawa-building outbreak was declared on June 3rd, two residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and three frontline staff members have contracted the virus. One resident has passed away. The death cannot be attributed to COVID-19 at this time.

There is currently one Veteran resident diagnosed with COVID-19 who now resides on the 20-bed isolation unit, where he is receiving enhanced care and support from staff. The declared outbreak is limited to the Ottawa building.

Three staff members recently tested positive for the virus and remain self-isolating at home. We wish all the team members a full recovery and look forward to welcoming them back after completing all safety protocols.

On May 25th, the facility-wide outbreak at the Perley Rideau was declared over. During the 40-day outbreak, 55 individuals – residents and staff – tested positive for COVID-19. Of the 21 residents to contract the virus, 10 recovered and 11 community residents passed away. Not all of the deaths could be attributed to COVID-19. During the outbreak, 34 staff members tested positive for the virus, all recovered and returned to the Perley Rideau community.

The Command Centre Team meets regularly to address this pandemic and confront new challenges as they arise and Perley Rideau leadership is committed to open and transparent communications with its community.

“I am confident that we will wrangle this virus,” says Akos, Hoffer, CEO. “I commend staff for their outstanding efforts to keep our residents safe while making every effort to maintain resident quality of life.”

**Questions may be directed to Jay Innes, Director of Communications,  
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*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.*