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HHHS Notified of COVID-19 Outbreak at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care Home

Hyland Crest Long-Term Care home in Minden has declared an outbreak of COVID-19, after one staff member tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The positive test came during routine surveillance testing. With the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge region currently in the “Yellow – Protect” zone, a second test was required to confirm the results before an outbreak declaration could be made. Earlier today, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) was notified that the confirmation test was also positive. Further testing has revealed that this positive case is **not a variant of the virus.**

According to guidance from the Ministry of Health for Long-Term Care homes, if one staff member or resident has a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19, this must be considered an ‘outbreak’. Accordingly, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR DHU) has officially declared Hyland Crest Long-Term Care to be in a COVID-19 Outbreak.

Upon testing positive, the staff member immediately began to self-isolate at home and did not return to work at Hyland Crest. HHHS also began to work with the HKPR DHU to manage the situation and identify anyone who may have been exposed, in order to prevent further spread.

Outbreak protocols are now being implemented at Hyland Crest, including: immediate testing of all residents and potentially exposed individuals; isolating all residents to their rooms; and postponing admissions, as well as limited readmissions, discharges and/or transfers.

These protocols are in addition to the stringent Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures that have been in place for over a year including: ensuring staff work in only one Long-Term Care facility; actively screening all staff and essential visitors upon entry to the buildings; conducting regular surveillance testing of all Long-Term Care staff and residents; limiting visitors to only those deemed as ‘essential caregivers’ who must undergo regular COVID-19 testing; and ensuring adequate supply and proper use of personal protective equipment at all times.

“As I have said in the past, we know that COVID-19 is a very contagious virus, and even with all of the most rigorous infection prevention and control measures, cases like this can occur,” said Carolyn

Plummer, President and CEO of HHHS. “HHHS will continue to deliver the best care and support possible to our Long-Term Care residents and their families, and we remain deeply grateful to our staff and management teams for their hard work and dedication to the infection prevention and control measures that have been part of their daily lives for over a year.”

HHHS will continue to monitor this case and Hyland Crest Long-Term Care, work with the HKPR DHU to minimize potential spread at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care, and provide updates to the community. HHHS remains committed to providing transparency and a safe environment for residents and staff.

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About Haliburton Highlands Health Services

Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

Haliburton Highlands Health Services, working with partners and accountable to our community, promotes wellness and provides access to essential, high quality health services including: Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care) Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services and Community Support Services.