



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

Saturday, April 18, 2020 – Ottawa, Ontario

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre has confirmed that two staff members have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. One staff member worked on Ottawa 1 East and the second worked on Gatineau 2 South. This brings to four the number of staff testing positive for the virus.

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

Out of an abundance of caution, The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre has arranged for broader precautionary COVID-19 testing for residents and staff across the home. This is underway and will be completed over the next few days.

Enhanced infection control precautions continue at the Perley Rideau. In addition to the facility-wide anti-COVID-19 precautions such as priority testing and twice-daily screening of all staff and residents, universal masking, staff movements are being limited between buildings. Residents' spirits also continue to be buoyed through virtual visits with family, friends and others via Skype.

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

"The courage, dedication and professionalism of our staff, the support and cooperation of all of our families, partners and donors and the pluck of our residents will be the deciding factors in this important mission," says Perley Rideau CEO Akos Hoffer. "It is times such as this that are the real test of 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 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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