



## Six Residents Test Positive for COVID-19 at The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – Ottawa, Ontario

The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre has confirmed that six residents and nine staff have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. This brings to 15 the number of individuals testing positive for the virus.

As of today, 790 COVID-19 tests have been completed on staff and residents. Tests will be completed over the next few days and the results are expected within 48 hours following a test.

Six residents living on Gatineau 2 South tested positive today. They are all asymptomatic and have been moved to the new 20-bed isolation unit in the Ottawa Building. Their results emerged from the Perley Rideau's precautionary swab testing campaign for all residents and staff.

Two positive staff tests were received for PSWs from Ottawa 1 East. All staff are self-isolating at home. We wish everyone a full and speedy recovery. Each staff member requires 14 days in self-isolation. Staff are encouraged to lean on the many supports provided by our Employee Assistance programs, their unions, their families and, where applicable, their professional governing bodies. Following isolation, staff must provide two negative COVID-19 test results before returning to work.

The four units where staff and residents have returned positive tests are:

1. Rideau 1 North
2. Ottawa 2 East
3. Ottawa 1 East
4. Gatineau 2 South

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.

With guidance from Public Health Ontario, the Perley Rideau is requiring all staff to wear procedural masks. To promote social distancing, all staff lounges are now closed.

Residents are in good spirits, particularly those taking advantage of virtual communication via phone, Skype and Facetime.

"As the Ontario government announced recently that projections show that the COVID-19 peak may have been reached, there is still considerable concern for the long-term care sector," says Perley Rideau CEO Akos Hoffer. "Today's results affirm our strategy to test all staff and residents."

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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