



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

June 24, 2020 – Ottawa, Ontario

On a day when one staff member completed the required safety protocols to recover from COVID-19, a frontline caregiver has tested positive for the virus. Preliminary research indicates that the individual did not contract the virus at work.

With this new case, there are a total of four staff members who have tested positive for the virus and all are at home and self-isolating. We wish each of them a rapid and full recovery and we look forward to welcoming them back after completing all required safety protocols.

One Veteran resident continues to receive enhanced care on the isolation unit in the Ottawa building.

Since the June 3rd outbreak, a total of three residents and seven staff have tested positive for the virus.

On June 1st, the Ministry of Long-Term Care announced continued surveillance of all long-term care home staff. This means that all Perley Rideau 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 surveillance. The first two rounds of testing are now complete. Supported by testing from the COVID-19 Assessment Centres, there have been 1151 tests on residents and 2537 tests on staff during the pandemic.

With this new case of COVID-19, the earliest projected date for the end of this facility-wide outbreak is the morning of July 7th, when resident outdoor visits could begin. The Perley Rideau team continues to plan to meet the Ministry requirement of providing each resident with a 30-minute visit weekly. Additional information will be provided to the Perley Rideau community in the coming days.

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, to plan and confront new challenges as they arise.

"I know today's news will be tough for our community to hear," says Akos Hoffer, CEO. "I want to assure everyone that our team is united against this disease and committed to stopping the spread of this virus."

**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.