



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

September 24, 2020 – Ottawa, Ontario

COVID-19 Update

- The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre today received confirmation that a frontline staff member working in the Gatineau building on the Gatineau 1 North unit has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The positive case was in contact with a COVID 19 positive person in the community and identified during our regular two-week testing of staff, as mandated by the Ontario Government.
- The staff member is asymptomatic and self-isolating at home. We wish the individual a rapid and full recovery.
- There are no positive cases of COVID-19 among Perley Rideau residents.
- The outbreak is isolated to the Gatineau building.
- All indoor and outdoor visits with residents from the Gatineau building are cancelled effective immediately until further notice.
- Only essential visitors and caregivers will be permitted to visit the Gatineau building.
- In consultation with Ottawa Public Health, the Ottawa and Rideau buildings are not on outbreak and indoor and outdoor visits can continue.
- All visitors will continue to be screened and must follow all safety protocols.
- Please help keep our community safe:
 - Wear a mask;
 - Follow recommended hand hygiene practices;
 - Respect physical distancing limits of 2 m/6 ft.

COVID-19 Tests

Earlier today, a new directive from the Ontario Government addressed testing requirements (link: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/58507/ontario-updates-covid-19-testing-guidelines>).

It is the opinion of the Perley Rideau team that this directive does not change the requirement that those entering our high-risk environment attest to a negative COVID-19 test within two weeks of the date of entry.

Please see page 4, #3. High Risk Populations (http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_guidance.pdf).

"Asymptomatic individuals from certain high-risk populations may be considered for testing. This includes workers and residents of high-risk settings such as long-term care homes, visitors of long-term care homes, workers and residents of homeless shelters and other congregate settings."

This testing directive applies to Support Workers, Designated Caregivers and general visitors. View the Perley Rideau flowchart for more information: http://www.perleyrideau.ca/upload/documents/september_11_2020_visiting-and-absences-.pdf.

Essential visitors – those who have a resident who is very ill and dying -- will be permitted to visit the Gatineau building.

Staff will support these essential visitors and make all necessary arrangements to support a safe visit including the wearing of the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To access the documents showing the best practices to properly put on and take off PPE, view "educational resources": <http://www.perleyrideau.ca/visiting-during-a-pandemic>

Essential visitors should contact the Manager of Resident Care where their loved one resides to arrange a visit.

We recognize that this adherence to the testing requirement will be an inconvenience to individuals entering the Perley Rideau, but please know that the safety and security of residents is paramount.

Thank you for your understanding and support,

Jay Innes

Director of Communications

**Questions may be directed to Jay Innes, Director of Communications,
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the well-being of the people we serve.*

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