

family update

October 23, 2020

NOTICE OF CONFIRMED COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Dear families,

We are sorry to report that we have a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in a staff member at Centre de Santé Saint-Thomas. This impacts residents and staff in the North Cottage, South Cottage, and second floor.

The staff member worked the night of October 18/19, began experiencing symptoms on October 20 and was tested on that day. We learned of the positive diagnosis today. The individual wore a mask continuously during the entire shift and has not been at the centre since October 19. We are in contact with the staff member to ensure their safety and wellness.

Families with loved ones in the North Cottage, South Cottage, and second floor have been contacted. No residents are showing any symptoms of COVID-19. However, all residents in impacted units are being tested to be safe. All staff who the individual had interactions with have also been contacted. None are showing symptoms and all are being tested.

This is difficult news. The Saint Thomas team continues to follow all public health directives and protocols which we hope will minimize the possibility of transmission. We are in contact with the Medical Officer for Health's office and will follow all additional outbreak guidelines to ensure our centre is safe. This includes:

- **Quarantining residents** to minimize exposure and risk, including serving meals on trays in resident rooms
- **Postponing all social visits**
- Temporarily **halting recreational activities**
- Continuing thorough **environmental cleaning** with approved disinfectants
- Ensuring all **safety protocols** are followed including frequent handwashing, donning and doffing PPE and procedural masks, and maintaining physical distance as appropriate
- **Halting new admissions** and examining re-admissions (for those who are currently away from the centre) on a case-by-case basis

Designated supports are eligible to continue to visit. We ask those who have been identified as designated supports think carefully about options before coming to the centre. Please consider meeting with your loved ones virtually instead until all resident and staff test results are back and we are no longer in outbreak. We must exercise greater caution with the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the province rising substantively.

Our staff have participated in planning and training and are responding with calm and confidence. Your loved ones are safe and are being cared for with compassion and love. We continue to monitor residents very closely.

We will be in touch regularly to keep you informed. Please direct questions to your Site Administrator at 780-450-2987 Ext. 221 or email admin@covenantcare.ca. For the most recent information on the pandemic please see ahs.ca/COVID and the covenantcare.ca website for updated COVID-19 information on Saint Thomas.

Please continue to take every precaution you can to stay healthy and well,

Derrick Bernardo
President

JoAnn Molloy
Vice-President, Resident Experience