

January 26, 2021

Dear Families, Residents and Staff of Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care:

COVID-19 has been the cause of loss and suffering for us all, and is especially worrisome for those living and working in health care facilities, as well as their family members. It's unfortunate that Waypoint Centre for Mental Health care is currently experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak.

I regret to inform you that SMDHU learned yesterday that preliminary test results of one of the individuals in the current outbreak at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care (Bayfield building, Horizon) was positive for a particular mutation indicating a high probability that this individual has a variant strain of concern (the UK, South African or the Brazilian variant) of COVID-19. The second step in the testing process, whole genome sequencing, will determine the exact COVID-19 variant, anticipated to be completed and communicated to us later in the week. These variants of COVID-19 are more easily transmitted, making them more difficult to control.

As you know, the outbreak at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care was declared on January 22. To date this outbreak has been well contained and we continue to work closely with Waypoint to protect residents and staff. As a precaution we will now manage this outbreak on the assumption that all those affected also have a COVID-19 variant of concern, and thus we will apply additional outbreak control measures. We will communicate with you further regarding these measures, and as we have more information in our ongoing investigation.

On the weekend the health unit announced that seven Simcoe Muskoka individuals tested positive for the United Kingdom variant as part of the outbreak at Roberta Place. It's quite likely that the UK variant that is more wide-spread than first thought, both across Simcoe Muskoka and the province, and thus people need to abide by the provincial Stay at Home Order and its associated requirements.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

☐ **Barrie:**
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
705-721-7520
FAX: 705-721-1495

☐ **Collingwood:**
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

☐ **Cookstown:**
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

☐ **Gravenhurst:**
2-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON
P1P 1Z3
705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

☐ **Huntsville:**
34 Chaffey St.
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1K1
705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

☐ **Midland:**
A-925 Hugel Ave.
Midland, ON
L4R 1X8
705-526-9324
FAX: 705-526-1513

☐ **Orillia:**
120-169 Front St. S.
Orillia, ON
L3V 4S8
705-325-9565
FAX: 705-325-2091