

January 30, 2021 COVID Update and Outbreak Status

With deep sadness, we can confirm two patients with COVID-19 passed away this morning. We express our deepest condolences to the families and friends affected by this loss, felt by all. We are committed to supporting those affected, and resources have been made available.

We share our thanks to our Waypoint staff for their care of these individuals, and tireless dedication to our patients, their families and each other at this difficult time.

COVID-19 represents an unprecedented challenge to our healthcare system, and as the pandemic continues we are committed to continually adapting our processes to ensure the highest level of safety.

We are managing the current outbreak on the Horizon Program through enhanced infection prevention and control measures including increased cleaning, personal protective equipment and testing. Patients who have tested positive for COVID and those with symptoms are being cared for in a separate area of the program that includes physical barriers for additional safety.

Currently the outbreak includes:

- 5 confirmed positive patients
- 8 positive staff, with five new positive staff reported since our Jan. 29, 2021 update
- 2 patient deaths.

Please be assured we are working closely with the Simcoe/Muskoka District Health Unit and taking every precaution in caring for patients. All patients are under constant monitoring for symptoms associated with COVID-19.

We are asking ALL Waypoint staff to have your mask on right from when you get out of your car, and when returning to your car when leaving – it is also important to maintain 6 ft of physical distancing even with a mask on. Remember to sanitize your hands when putting on or removing your mask.

For staff working on Horizon, please check your assignment when you arrive (West, North, East corridor) and follow the signage to the designated area for where you are to change and don and doff your PPE.

The vaccine remains a priority as an additional measure for safety of our patients and staff. We are awaiting news for when the second dose will be available for all Horizon patients and those staff who have received their first dose.

Across the hospital strong safety measures are in place for all patients and staff. Everyone must be screened, practice thorough hand hygiene and physical distancing, and use full PPE for all close interactions and if working on isolation units.