

## February 1, 2021 COVID Update and Outbreak Status

We are deeply saddened to share that three patients from our Horizon Program for Geriatric Psychiatry have died. 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. The outbreak now includes ten patients, eight staff, with three patient deaths.

Our thanks is extended again to our dedicated staff for their care and compassion during this difficult time. We have had a number of staff from across the hospital volunteer to work on the program and their efforts along with everyone who has been redeployed to Horizon are greatly appreciated. We are offering numerous wellness supports for our staff so they can continue to provide excellent care to our patients.

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.

Our team continues to work closely with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to manage the current outbreak with enhanced infection prevention and control measures. These include increased cleaning, testing for patients and staff, the addition of infection, prevention and control staff, clinical educators and medical leadership to the program for on-going training and staff support, and having positive patients and those with symptoms being cared for in a separate area of the program that includes physical barriers for additional safety.

The vaccine remains a priority as an additional safety measure and all Horizon patients and many staff have received their first dose. The province has committed to having the second dose available within 21-27 days for long-term care, high-risk retirement and First Nations elder care home residents, which will include our Horizon Program patients and staff. We are waiting for confirmation of our date at this time.

**A reminder for ALL Waypoint staff** to don your mask before exiting your car to enter the building, and leave your mask on until you enter your car at the end of your shift. It is also important to maintain 6 ft of physical distancing even with a mask on and please remember to sanitize your hands before putting on your mask and after 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.

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.