

Waypoint COVID-19 Community and Partner Update January 7, 2022

The COVID-19 Omicron variant is fueling the rapid spread of the virus across Ontario and health experts predict cases could soon number in the hundreds of thousands, overwhelming hospital bed capacity over the next few weeks.

Hospitals are grappling with a severe staffing shortage as an increasing number of employees and physicians test positive, are symptomatic, or have been exposed to the virus. Waypoint is not immune and we estimate that up to 30 to 35 per cent of staff are off.

These challenges along with outbreaks in the hospital are requiring us to make some changes.

Effective Tuesday, January 11, 2022, the hospital is suspending all general visitation. Designated essential visitors/care partners and visitors for palliative patients will be permitted to continue.

In addition, effective Friday, January 7, 2022, we are implementing restrictions on unaccompanied off-unit access for patients.

We know this news is difficult to hear and want to assure you we are doing everything we can to support patients through these difficult times.

Our teams are making every effort to increase the availability of virtual visits as a way to connect with loved ones while this temporary measure is in place. We are restarting canteen deliveries, adding more on-unit activities, and providing off-unit escorted walks for patients from the same program. We have also restarted collective take-out food deliveries for patients.

We are paying close attention to the COVID landscape and regularly reviewing all these measures in the hopes of resuming visitation and unescorted off-unit access as soon as it is safe to do so.

Outbreak update:

The outbreak on Waypoint's Horizon Program that was declared on January 2, 2022 continues and there are now ten patients who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The entire Horizon Program is considered to be in outbreak status at this time and enhanced droplet/contact isolation precautions are in place.

In collaboration with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, an additional outbreak was declared on Friday, January 7, 2022 on Waypoint's Bayview Program. There are currently two patients on the Bayview Program who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

All affected patients are in isolation and being monitored and cared for using enhanced droplet/contact precautions.

In general, all patients have mild symptoms and we hope this continues.

Resources for Patients and Families

Supports for patients and families are available from our Spiritual Care Team, the Patient/Client and Family Council and the Patient Relations Office. More information can be found at

www.waypointcentre.ca/patients_families

<i>Spiritual Care</i> Clinical Multifaith Chaplains and Traditional Healer 705-549-3181, ext. 2850	<i>Patient/Client & Family Council</i> A peer-led organization committed to using personal experiences to improve mental health & addiction services 705-549-3181, ext. 2222	<i>Patient Relations Office</i> Available to listen to your feedback and work to answer your questions and resolve your concerns 705-549-3181, ext. 2999
--	--	--