Waypoint COVID-19 Community and Partner Update
December 15, 2020

Yesterday we received notice that an employee tested positive for COVID-19. Since the start of the pandemic, we have had zero patient cases and this is our fourth staff case over nine months.

This case is unrelated to the recent staff case from December 7, 2020 and the exposure was from outside of Waypoint. The employee in question was last onsite on December 7, passed screening and did not have any symptoms. This employee had no patient contact, very minimal movement while onsite and adhered to infection prevention and control measures.

As this exposure is low risk, there is no need to test staff or patients, or for anyone to be self-isolating. In consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Waypoint is not considered to be in outbreak at this time.

As a follow-up to our positive COVID employee reported on December 7, there have been no additional related positive staff and all patient tests have come back negative. Provided there are no additional related cases, the four units (Forensic Assessment, Bayview and the two Beckwith program units) on which the employee in question worked will re-open December 17, 2020 for patient off-unit activities.

With rising case numbers and outbreaks in various hospitals, we returned to Phase 1 visiting protocols on December 9, 2020. All in-person visits have been cancelled, with the exception of visits for vulnerable patients. Vulnerable patients are patients who have exceptional circumstances (e.g. palliative) and their visitors must be designated as an “Essential Visitor” and meet the following criteria:

- Provide direct care to residents, such as helping with feeding, mobility, hygiene, or cognitive stimulation;
- Are family members or friends, privately hired caregivers, paid companions and/or translators.

All possible steps are being taken to promote and support virtual visits. Families are encouraged to book visits virtually during the holidays. Please be assured that our staff are have safe special activities underway for our patients throughout December and the festive holiday season both on and off their unit.

Our hospital remains focused on infection prevention and control, and the safety of patients, clients, staff and our community. We continue to be in regular contact with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and will make any additional adjustments as required. All safety precautions remain in place – universal masking for patients and staff, screening, hand hygiene, use of full PPE in our isolation unit and for any symptomatic patients, physical distancing, etc.