Family and Community COVID-19 Update
February 3, 2021

It is with heavy hearts we share another patient from our Horizon Program for Geriatric Psychiatry has died. Once again, we express our sincerest condolences to the families, friends, and staff affected by this loss. We have also had an additional four patients and one staff test positive for COVID-19, bringing the outbreak to 11 patients, nine staff and sadly five deaths.

Today the Simcoe/Muskoka District Health Unit identified the variant of concern in one of our positive cases as the UK variant B1.1.7. We are continuing to wait for the results of testing for the variant of concern with our other positive cases. The outbreak is being managed following the guidelines for the variant of concern.

This is a difficult time for our staff, patients, families, and our community. We’d like to extend our thanks again to our expert, caring, and compassionate staff. Their perseverance and tireless commitment to care for patients is inspiring.

We do wish to publicly thank all of our partners and the businesses who are supporting Waypoint, our staff, our patients and their families, and many others in the frontline of the pandemic. We value their contribution to our communities and the fight against COVID.

Our team continues to meet daily with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to manage the current outbreak. We are also in contact with the Ministry of Labour and our union is part of our daily outbreak meetings.

We are following all public health recommendations related to the variant of concern and have enhanced infection prevention and control measures in place, including:

- Isolation of patients since January 18, 2021
- Full personal protective equipment for all staff across the program, including elastomeric respirators. The elastomeric respirators are above and beyond public health recommendations on personal protective equipment required for our outbreak, and as they are reusable, aid with required conservation efforts. This process was reviewed by the Ministry of Labour and we have received no orders at this time. The investigation is continuing and we are working collaboratively with all parties to ensure all precautions are in place.
- Increased cleaning across the program.
- Regular testing for patients and staff including the introduction this week of rapid testing supported by Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital.
- Adding additional infection, prevention and control staff, clinical educators and medical leadership on the program for ongoing training and to support staff.
- Co-horting of patients who are positive and those with symptoms so they are isolated and being cared for in areas separate from patients who are negative and have no symptoms.
- Our staff have added safe temporary, removable barriers to help in separating patients who are positive from the rest of the program.
- Closing the program to all admissions and discharges.
• Cancelling all visiting and non-essential activities.
• Regular personal protective equipment training and support.

These measures and any and all safety precautions are in place until the outbreak is over, which is following 14 days with no new transmission from the date of the last positive result for either a patient or staff.

The vaccine remains a priority as an additional safety measure and we are happy to have confirmation that eligible Horizon Program patients will receive their second dose on February 11, 2021. Some patient-facing staff who received the first dose are also receiving their second doses this week. While we don’t yet have confirmation on when the remainder of our patients and staff will receive their first dose, we continue to advocate for this to occur.

A reminder that the Horizon Program is in a separate building and the hospital remains open to admissions to our isolation unit. All other programs are continuing with on-unit activities with safety precautions in place. At this time, visiting has been suspended across the hospital.

Updates can be found on our website at www.waypointcentre.ca as has been the case throughout the pandemic.

Resources for Families
Supports for 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

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