Waypoint COVID-19 Community and Partner Update
January 23, 2021

Waypoint is closely monitoring COVID-19 and taking action to ensure the safety of its patients and our community amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

In consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the Horizon Program is now considered in outbreak with one patient and one employee having tested positive for COVID-19. Full isolation precautions for all patients are in place. The first set of testing of all other patients have come back negative. Patients will be re-tested again early next week. Staff testing continues with no additional staff positive results at this time. All patients and many of the staff have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The outbreak on the Horizon Program is not related to the previous outbreak on the Awenda Program, which was declared on January 9, 2021. The Awenda Program outbreak was contained to two patients and one staff testing positive and effective today the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has declared the Awenda Program outbreak to be over.

We are very grateful to our staff on both of these programs for their tireless efforts in keeping everyone safe while continuing to provide essential care to all patients. This thanks is extended to everyone across Waypoint for their dedication to our patients and hospital since the pandemic began.

We know this has not been easy for our patients, clients and their families; however, we can assure you that Waypoint has enhanced cleaning and multiple safety measures in place for patients and staff. The risk of transmission is still considered low with everyone’s adherence to universal masking, PPE use and following of multiple safety measures. We are meeting daily with our outbreak management group and monitoring the situation in consultation with the Health Unit.

While the Horizon Program is closed to transfers unless for emergency medical reasons until the outbreak is over, the hospital remains open for admissions to our Swing Unit (isolation unit). All other clinical programs are continuing activities, however we have suspended most off-unit recreational and vocational services at this time as part of our effort to limit movement of staff between clinical areas. Our multiple safety precautions include keeping patient programs separated for activities.

Our hospital remains focused on infection prevention and control measures, and the safety of patients, clients, staff and our community and we continue to be in regular contact with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. All safety precautions remain in place for all patients and staff in all of our locations. Everyone must be screened, conduct thorough hand hygiene, physical distance, use full PPE for all close interactions and if working on isolation units.