Waypoint COVID-19 Community and Partner Update
January 9, 2021

On January 9, 2021, we were notified that a patient on our Awenda Program has tested positive for COVID-19. This patient is not a recent admission and is isolating.

In consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the Awenda Program is now considered in outbreak status and isolation precautions for all Awenda patients have been put in place. No other patients are showing symptoms and all Awenda patients and staff are being tested.

The outbreak is on the Awenda Program only and the program is closed to all transfers unless for emergency medical reasons until the outbreak is over. The hospital remains open for admissions to our Swing Unit and all other clinical programs are continuing activities. Our multiple safety precautions include keeping patient programs separated for activities.

This patient has been wearing a mask and adhering to other safety measures including hand hygiene. Waypoint has multiple safety measures in place for staff and patients and at this time there is no evidence of high-risk exposure and the risk of transmission is considered low.

This is the first patient case at Waypoint since the pandemic started. We have had eight staff cases to date. We know that this news is difficult but we can assure you that all infection prevention and control procedures are in place and are being followed.

As of January 10, 2021, about half of our staff will have been vaccinated against COVID-19. At this time, we do not have confirmed timing for when our patients and clients will be able to access the vaccine, but we continue to advocate for inclusion as soon as possible.

Like all other hospitals in our region, we continue to operate in Phase 1 of visiting protocols. Since December 9, 2020, all in-person visits have been cancelled with the exception of visits for vulnerable patients. Our team has been working diligently to increase access to virtual visits with additional iPads and devices on the programs, with more iPads expected in January.

As case numbers increase across the province, and hospitals face outbreaks and high occupancy with ICU capacity as high as 115 %, Waypoint is supporting the health care system with a plan to increase patient beds if required.

This move has required us to delay the resumption of the Georgianwood concurrent disorders inpatient beds until the concern for hospital capacity is understood. While we are disappointed in this delay, it is necessary to meet the demand of the entire health care system. We will be regularly reassessing this to be able to resume these services as well as increasing capacity on our forensic programs as soon as possible.

Our hospital remains focused on infection prevention and control, 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 – 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.