Family and Community COVID-19 Update - March 4, 2021

We are beyond pleased to share the outbreak on the Horizon Program for Geriatric Psychiatry was declared over on March 4, 2021 in consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. The final outbreak numbers included 15 staff and 17 patients, sadly, seven of whom have died.

While the outbreak has ended, current Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) protocols will remain in place at the hospital. With asymptomatic transmission and the presence of the variant of concern, we are closely monitoring what’s happening in the region and taking every precaution to keep our patients and staff safe. Additional work happening across the hospital includes:

- PPE refresher training for all staff
- Decluttering of patient, clinical and administrative areas to reduce touch points and support enhanced COVID cleaning efforts
- Pro-active planning following what we learned from the Horizon outbreak
- The continuation of patient and staff co-horting to reduce contacts
- The continuation of having staff work from home where possible and having no visiting at this time to limit people coming into the hospital
- Regular testing of staff and isolation for patients and staff who are experiencing symptoms

We are hoping to resume full operations on the Forensic Assessment Program (FAP-B) sometime next week. Our team has also been busy coordinating additional indoors walks for patients on provincial programs with additional IPAC protocols in place. This will give these patients the opportunity to get some much-needed exercise, and visit the canteen or Pin Money. Similar opportunities are being explored for patients on Regional Programs.

While over half of our staff and a small number of patients have been vaccinated against COVID-19, we continue to actively advocate for the remainder of our patients to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

We’d like to publically thank our staff for their diligence in adhering to IPAC protocols, while also providing exceptional mental health care to patients. We’d also like to acknowledge and thank families and our community for the words of support and donations received for patients and staff. These are extremely challenging times and we must continue to support one another.

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

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