



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Acting Medical Officer of Health

April 22, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Overall Trends

- There are currently 11 long-term care or retirement homes in outbreak
 - 6 long term care homes have had their outbreaks declared over.
- Since Monday's update, there has been an increase in the number of new confirmed cases to 550 as a result of the expanded testing for priority groups, in particular in long-term care and retirement homes.
- We expect to continue to see significant increases in the number of confirmed cases in the days ahead, as a result of expanded testing.

Forest Heights Revera

- As you are aware, Forest Heights Long Term Care home is experiencing a substantial outbreak of COVID-19.
- As of 7 p.m. last evening, there are 103 cases among residents, 41 among staff, and sadly, 12 deaths.
- In collaboration with Ontario Health's Waterloo-Wellington Health System Response team and the team at Forest Heights Revera, a plan was put in place to move some residents out of the home and into hospital.
- Approximately 40 residents are currently being moved temporarily into the most appropriate available hospital beds.
- The movement of residents will not impact the hospitals' ability to admit new patients or care for current patients.
- Additional staffing supports from the health system response, such as additional personal support workers, are also being deployed to Forest Heights.
- Strong outbreak measures continue to remain in place at Forest Heights.

- Daily calls and communications with Forest Heights Revera continue to happen with public health and multiple health system response partners
- I am grateful for the high level of professionalism and collaboration that exists across our region's health care system and I am thankful to all three of our local hospitals. Their ongoing support is truly valued.

Closing remarks

- Our challenging times continue, but our combined efforts are making a difference, as we have seen locally and also with the most recent projections released by the province's COVID-19 task force on Monday.
- While these projections are encouraging from a community transmission perspective, outbreaks in long-term care and retirement homes are still very much a major issue.
- I must remind everybody in Waterloo Region that we still have a long road to travel – and we must stay the course.
- To everybody limiting the number of times you leave your home, to everybody who has sacrificed visiting loved ones, to all the kids not seeing their friends right now, you are helping slow the spread of COVID-19, you are making a difference.
- Thank you.