

### **COVID-19 Outbreak at Atikokan General Hospital – Long Term Care**

**The Northwestern Health Unit has declared a COVID-19 outbreak at Atikokan General Hospital as a result of one (1) staff testing positive.**

Our hospital team has already put in place many of the recommendations that would minimize the risk to all staff, residents / patients. This outbreak declaration is to ensure that every precaution necessary to prevent further spread is undertaken.

#### **Here's what you can expect:**

- All of our residents are already being isolated out of an overabundance of caution.
- Staff and residents will be tested this week. Staff will continue with regular testing after that, the frequency is dependent on our zone designation (once a week for orange-red-grey zone and every two weeks for green-yellow) and outbreak situation.
- Visitor restrictions are already in place. This means that the only visitors allowed are for those whose loved ones are actively palliating.
- Outpatient services (lab, x-ray, telemedicine, rehabilitation) are continuing as each appointment is being assessed when it comes to risks versus benefits. All outpatients are already being required to wear hospital-issued masks and are being screened prior to entering our building.
- Regular meetings have started between AGH Incident Management Team and Northwestern Health Unit. With a COVID-19 outbreak declaration, the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health North will also be part of the management of the outbreak
- Personal Protective Equipment are available and we are well-stocked at this time.
- Our Occupational Health Nurse, along with public health, are actively monitoring and coordinating with our positive staff member

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AGH recognizes the fear, even anger, that some of our community members feel at this time. However, please note that the AGH Team has been preparing since the beginning of the pandemic and we are proactively addressing the situation. We strongly support the “no blame” stance because we firmly believe that nobody would want this happening to anybody and we are all doing our best to cope and to prepare.

As part of our commitment to be transparent in our communication, we will be sending regular written updates to all partners and will be posting on our social media site.

**AGH COVID-19 Incident Management Team members are as follows:**

Michael Ashbee,	Lab Manager
Marie Cornell,	Risk and Infection Control Manager
Jennifer Learning,	Chief Nursing Officer
Dr. Sara Van Der Loo,	Medical Chief of Staff
Jorge VanSlyke,	Chief Executive Officer
Stacey Wood,	Director of Care, Extended Care

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the undersigned and I will make sure that your queries are directed to the most appropriate IMT Member:

Jorge VanSlyke: Work 807-597-4215 ext. 284

Thank you for your continued support. We appreciate any and all positive thoughts that you can send our way.

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