

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 21, 2020

## **Riverside Health Care COVID-19 Response**

Over the past few days, six new and one probable case of COVID-19 have been identified across the Rainy River District. One case is in Fort Frances, while the others are in the community of Rainy River.

Riverside is testing all residents and staff of our long term care facilities twice over a seven-day period, while LaVerendrye General Hospital is appropriately utilizing a more focused testing approach. Additional high touch cleaning is being performed at all of our locations. We are also implementing new visitor restrictions at our long-term care sites, effective immediately.

### **New Long-Term Care Visitor Restrictions -**

### Emo Health Centre, Rainy River Health Centre and Rainycrest LTC

- All short term and temporary absences are cancelled. The only exception is resident absences for medical appointments.
- All general visits are cancelled.
- All residents are permitted ONLY one (1) designated caregiver.
- Essential or palliative visitors will continue to be permitted.
- Any visitor accessing the Home is required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test within the past 2 weeks, and must pass the COVID-19 active screen.

The province of Ontario is entering a lockdown as of 12:01am on December 26th, in order to help reduce infection rates and protect health care resources. The lock down is for 28 days in the South and 14 days in the North. While we recognize these lockdowns are challenging, we need to remain aware that infection rates have been increasing all around us and are currently transpiring here in our district.

While vaccinations and lockdowns are intended to reduce the risk of transmission, it remains imperative that we recognize the importance of ensuring our families and communities stay safe. We acknowledge the frustration and exhaustion the last ten-months of the pandemic have brought. We encourage you now more than ever, to remain resilient.

Stay Strong & Stay Safe.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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#### Reference:

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Riverside Health Care is a fully accredited multi-site, multi-function health care system serving the residents of the Rainy River District. Riverside Health Care operates hospitals in Fort Frances, Emo and Rainy River, and Rainycrest Long-Term Care Home and La Verendrye Non Profit Supportive Housing in Fort Frances. Each community is also served by Riverside Community Counselling which provides mental health and addictions services, Community Support Services through Rainycrest and Riverside Valley Diabetes Education Centre which provides important chronic disease management programming. For more information, please visit riversidehealthcare.ca