

Cleveland, Sunday, February 7th, 2021 - Family Members

RE: FORTIETH WALES COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Family Members,

On Tuesday, February 2nd, one resident living on Norton 2 had a fever and was immediately put on isolation and tested for COVID-19; results confirmed negative for coronavirus. As per Public Health recommendations this week, the resident was re-tested on Thursday and once again, results confirmed negative. On Friday, February 5th, six representatives from the CIUSSS were onsite to process a mass COVID-19 screening of forty-six employees and eighty-seven residents. All results have confirmed negative except two residents' results are pending; these residents were not in contact with the resident who tested positive. Two employees' results are also still pending.

During the mass screening, two representatives from the CIUSSS were also onsite to evaluate infection control at the Wales Home. I am pleased to share that they were impressed with measures in place and once again, there were no recommendations. We thank our Director of Health Services, Vicky Gingras, for being proactive and implementing many of the measures before Public Health advised.

Friday afternoon, three primary caregivers received an orientation on the measures in place regarding hygiene and personal protective equipment. Please note, that primary caregivers will not be authorized to visit their loved one living on Shaw/Manning two, until they have received training and agree to abide by the measures in place. All primary caregivers, who have loved ones living on Shaw/Manning two, must receive the orientation *prior to visiting*. Appointments are scheduled through Erica Vander Wal, at evanderwal@waleshome.ca or 819-826-3266 extension 248.

We were in contact with Public Health Estrie this afternoon. Given the situation and the negative test results of the employees and residents, Public Health are questioning the possibility of a false-positive result. The odds of a false-positive are 1/1000. Public Health is currently in contact with the medical team and infectiology department who are following our resident at the hospital to discuss the results of the Wales Home's screening. It is now up to them to determine if our resident is a false-positive or not. A follow up between the Wales Home and Public Health is scheduled for February 12th to review the need for a second mass testing. If they request a second screening, it will be scheduled for February 15th or 16th and only employees who worked on Shaw/Manning two and the residents of the unit will be tested, not the entire RPA. Strict isolation measures remain in place for the residents living on Shaw/Manning two, including isolating in their rooms until further notice.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge and congratulate our employees for their quick response, remaining calm and staying positive during this stressful situation. Although, we are relieved by the information shared by Public Health this afternoon, we are realistic that our fight is far from over and cannot let our guard down. Rest assured that the safety of our residents and employees remains our top priority. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the coordinates below.

Regards,



Brendalee Piironen
Executive Director

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