Two Ross Memorial Hospital staff members test positive for COVID-19

This Week

Ross Memorial Hospital staff and doctors, as well as anyone else who was in close contact, have been tested for COVID-19 after a patient tested positive for the virus April 17.

Communications and public affairs officer Amanda Carvalho stated the hospital continues to work together with community partners and public health officials to protect patients, staff and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This includes declaring an outbreak at the Lindsay hospital - an outbreak is classified as one or more cases - when a patient admitted to the Continuing Care unit for an unrelated health issue began showing respiratory symptoms associated with the coronavirus.

The patient later tested positive but contact tracing on the other patients on the unit, which began immediately, were negative.

The hospital's contact tracing also included two patients recently discharged from the unit to long-term care. These patients were tested prior to discharge, with negative results but, in alignment with current public health directives, were placed in 14-day isolation at the homes.

Carvalho noted testing is also being completed for all staff and physicians who work on the unit, and any other staff member who was in close contact with the patient.

So far, this testing has revealed two staff members that are positive for COVID-19. These individuals are self-isolating and will require negative testing before returning to work.

The continuing care unit is now closed to all visitors and admissions. All hospital staff and physicians, including the team on the unit, are required to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and wear appropriate personal protective equipment in the course of their work.

Staff are also screened at the entrance each day, including having their temperature taken.

The hospital also continues to maintain enhanced safety measures including restricting visitors – limit of one for compassionate reasons or maternity – postponing non-essential surgeries, appointments and procedures, offering virtual and phone appointments where possible, active screening at entrances and increased screening and surveillance of all patients.

To date (April 20), the hospital's COVID-19 assessment and testing centre has completed 2,534 assessments and 1,309 tests.

Positive cases continue to be reported on the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit website (www.hkpr.on.ca.)

Information specific to the hospital is available at www.rmh.org/covid-19.