

compassionate visiting as per Ministry of Health direction.

“Staff who were asymptomatic wore the proper protective equipment to protect both themselves and the residents from the virus, but given the incubation period of the virus, many staff and residents were probably already infected,” the release goes on to read.

Dr. Noseworthy says the Health Unit has been working to support Pinecrest through this challenging time by working to ensure they have supplies and support for additional staff to cover the work of those who are home ill or recovering.

“This outbreak of COVID-19 is currently the largest outbreak in the province,” she says. “(It) really brings home how devastating and deadly this virus can be for older people in our communities. I am asking everyone to do everything they can to stop the spread of this virus — if not to protect yourself, but to protect others who need our care.”

These measures include self-isolating and staying home when ill, practising physical distancing, washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes and self-isolating for the mandatory 14 days after returning from travel outside of Canada or being confirmed as having COVID-19.

As well, everyone over 70 years of age and individuals who are immunocompromised are advised to self-isolate at home. This means that they should only leave their home or see other people for essential reasons. Where possible, they should seek services over the phone or internet or ask for help from friends, family or neighbours with essential errands.

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