

Peel Region while also, more recently, assisting Caressant Care McLaughlin Road Nursing Home in Lindsay, which remains in outbreak. As of Feb. 8 the home had 31 positive resident cases, and 11 individuals had also lost their battle with COVID-19.

President and CEO Kelly Isfan said Ross Memorial has accepted one patient transfer from outside its area.

“As a partner in our provincial system, we may be called upon at any time to accept patient transfers. Patients transferred here may or may not be positive for COVID-19,” stated Isfan, adding the hospital cannot share details about specific patients’ medical needs but, as of Feb. 9, no COVID-19 positive patients were admitted to the hospital.

The hospital continues to work with Caressant Care and has deployed a number of staff to support the home, including nurses, environmental services staff, an environmental services manager and interim leadership. Hospital vice-president Veronica Nelson has been filling in for McLaughlin Road executive director Christine Paull.

Should a long-term care resident require acute care, such as for a broken bone or heart attack, the hospital continues to support their care needs.

“We have strict screening and isolation protocols in place, and any patient admitted from an outbreak facility, or who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or other virus is isolated, cared for with appropriate PPE and tested for COVID-19 and other viruses,” explained Isfan.

As for the individuals who have died, Caressant Care Nursing and Retirement Homes Ltd. communications and marketing manager Stuart Oakley said these residents passed in the home per their wishes, not in hospital.

“Residents are transferred to hospital when their care needs exceed what can be provided in the home and is determined by the attending physician. At this time there is one resident who has been transferred to hospital for additional care,” added Oakley.

While some individuals may be concerned about the impact local numbers have on access to healthcare, the hospital continues to provide care programs and surgeries - some have had to be conducted virtually - within strict health and safety guidelines.