

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Health PEI staff and physicians
FROM: Denise Lewis Fleming, CEO; Marion Dowling, JRT Co-Lead and Chief Nursing Officer
DATE: July 4, 2020
SUBJECT: UPDATE: Response to Additional Cases of COVID-19 on PEI

*The Joint Response Team incident command structure is activated at **Level 2 Enhanced Monitoring and Planning for an Emergency Response** to the COVID-19 Pandemic under the Health PEI All Hazards Plan. The Joint Response Structure includes representatives between Health PEI and the Department of Health and Wellness, who continue to work together. The following is an All Staff and Physicians Update.*

Today, the Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Health Morrison announced three new cases of COVID-19 in the province. One person, a male in his 50s, was an essential worker who returned to the province following travel outside PEI. He has self-isolated since arriving on PEI. The other two cases are a male and female in their 20s, and they are connected to contact with a person outside PEI who had visited the United States. The female is a staff member at Whisperwood Villa.

The Joint Response Team is working closely with all stakeholders in government and private long-term care in responding to these new cases, following the plans that have been established over the past months to limit the spread of the virus. There have been no hospitalizations due to these cases, and there is no indication of community spread of the virus on PEI. We have strong screening protocols in place at all health care sites, and our containment and screening measures are working. We ask that all Health PEI staff continue to diligently follow the established infection prevention and control protocols closely, including use of personal protective equipment, as you have for the past weeks. At this time, there are no changes to these protocols.

Our priorities now include providing testing to residents and staff of Whisperwood Villa, as well as to contacts identified for testing by CPHO. We have also tested patients in hospital who had been at Whisperwood Villa recently, and to date all these patients have tested negative for the virus. As well, we are preparing Unit 3 at QEH to care for COVID-19 patients, should any patients require hospitalization.

Due to the quick containment measures and lack of community spread, all visitor protocols remain unchanged at this time, and patients who do not have risk factors of COVID-19 are still allowed designated visitors.

As you all know, we have always prepared for additional cases of COVID-19 on PEI and we have always known more cases would eventually occur. While we believe the cases today have been well contained, it must serve as a reminder to stay aware of the procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Please be reminded that, as health care workers, you must leave work immediately and call 1-855-354-4358 to be screened for testing if you have any signs of the following symptoms of COVID-19:

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fever
- chills
- sore throat
- runny nose, sneezing, congestion
- headache
- muscle aches
- unusual fatigue
- acute loss of sense of smell or taste

Thank you for your attention and the excellent work done to date to prepare the health system to handle additional cases of the virus.

Sincerely,

Denise and Marion