

Hillsdale Estates – COVID-19 Outbreak

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When did the outbreak start?

The outbreak was declared on August 26, 2021 by Durham Public Health.

2. How did the outbreak begin?

The first positive case was a staff member, however the investigation by the home, the Region and Public Health continues. This staff member tested positive on a rapid antigen test as per our surveillance testing protocol and was removed from the home pending a PCR test that was also positive. All high-risk contacts (residents and staff) were then tested with a PCR and residents on those units were isolated.

3. How many residents are affected?

As of September 20, 2021, we do not have any active resident cases; 13 residents tested positive but are now resolved; and eight residents have passed away.

4. Have any residents died as result of this outbreak?

Eight residents that were positive for COVID-19 have passed away.

5. How many residents have recovered?

To date, 13 residents have resolved and been cleared by Public Health.

6. How many staff are affected?

Two staff are positive for COVID-19, and 10 staff are resolved.

7. What is the homes vaccination rates?

95 per cent of residents, 83 per cent of staff.

8. Are COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

The Regional Municipality of Durham continues to take the health and safety of its residents, employees and volunteers very seriously and the Region's Long-Term Care homes have developed a robust health and safety program in response to the COVID19 pandemic. To date, the Region has strictly adhered to all of the Ministry of LongTerm Care's Directives, including the Ministry's Directive on the COVID-19 Immunization Policy. The Region is currently taking great care and diligence in developing a COVID-19 vaccination policy in consultation with its municipal counterparts and internal and external stakeholders.

9. How are staff and visitors screened?

Hillsdale Estates follows all Ministry of Health and Ministry of Long-Term Care guidelines to actively screen all employees and visitors to the home. Regular COVID-19 testing is also conducted in the home for all staff and visitors. During the outbreak we have been instructed by Public Health to perform a rapid antigen test on all staff and essential caregivers daily, regardless of vaccination status. A PCR test is also being conducted every three to five days on all staff and essential caregivers.

10. How is the home caring for residents that are positive?

Hilldale Estates has been working with Durham Public Health and Lakeridge Health since the onset of the outbreak to effectively cohort residents and staff to the best of our ability and based on best practice. Staff are assigned to provide care for residents that have tested positive only or residents that have tested negative only.

11. How is the staffing in the home?

Currently the staffing in the home is stable; the management team is on-site for added support.

12. Why is there agency staff in the home?

To further support the residents and staff in the home, agency staff have been recruited to assist with providing care. This allows for ongoing staffing stability during the outbreak.

13. Are the agency staff vaccinated?

Agency staff are required to provide their vaccination status prior to any placement in a Regional long-term care home and all agency staff are apprised of and must comply with the Region's COVID-19 protocols and procedures.

14. How can we be updated on our loved one's status?

Hillsdale Estates has been providing regular updates to all families and staff during the outbreak. The information is also posted on the durham.ca/LTC webpage.

For specific questions regarding a resident's status, please contact the resident home area directly. For questions regarding a resident who has tested positive for COVID-19, please contact Jeff Gardner, Nurse Practitioner, at extension 6347 or at jeff.gardner@durham.ca.

15. When will residents receive their third dose of the vaccine?

The home provided all residents with their third dose of the vaccine on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

16. What is the definition of resolved?

COVID-19 has been present for 10 days or longer and the individual has shown improvement in symptoms for 24 hours and no longer has a fever. These cases are no longer considered infectious and do not need to be isolated.

17. If the resident is considered resolved, does this mean that they have recovered from COVID-19?

While resolved indicates that a person is no longer considered infectious, it does not mean that the person has necessarily recovered from the disease; those considered resolved may continue to require treatments to help in their recovery. COVID-19 creates possibly serious health challenges and consequences that may continue after they are no longer contagious.