

# MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

## COVID-19 outbreak on Fourth Floor Unit at Welland Site

An outbreak of COVID-19 has been declared on the Fourth Floor Unit at Niagara Health's Welland Site.

The outbreak was called after six patients and two healthcare workers tested positive for COVID-19.

Niagara Health's Infection Prevention and Control experts, working with our Occupational Health and Safety team, is monitoring this situation closely. We have taken immediate steps to ensure the safety of our patients, staff and physicians, including:

- Closure of the unit to new admissions or transfers, unless medically necessary.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of the unit.
- Contact tracing of affected patients, staff and visitors (if applicable) with appropriate follow up is ongoing.
- Essential Care Partners are not permitted on the unit.

Due to the increase in COVID-19 activity on the unit — which cares for our surgical and alternate level of care patients — some emergency surgeries that require inpatient beds are being redirected to our Niagara Falls and St. Catharines sites. Day surgeries will continue at the Welland Site.

COVID outbreaks reinforce the need for everyone to follow public health guidelines, including physical distancing, proper and consistent mask usage, and regular hand washing.

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