April 9, 2020

Dear Patient & Family,

Between March 26, 2020 and April 5, 2020, health care workers on your unit, 4B Medicine at the Mississauga Hospital, tested positive for COVID-19. Our initial investigation suggests staff members acquired COVID-19 in the community and from other sources, at different times. We are taking this situation very seriously.

While we continue to test and monitor staff and patients from this unit, the number of positive tests we are currently aware of is seven.

We are following the advice of Peel Public Health and, out of an abundance of caution, have declared an outbreak of staff cases of COVID-19 on this unit. A patient outbreak is declared when a unit has two or more patients who test positive for a communicable disease, such as the flu or COVID-19. However, there is no definition for an outbreak among health care workers.

Your safety is our top priority. You will be immediately tested if you begin to experience any symptoms related to COVID-19 including fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. Should you experience any of these symptoms please immediately notify your care team.

We have taken a number of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure your safety and the safety of our staff. This includes closing the unit to any new admissions, enhanced cleaning on the unit, and increased education on the use of personal protective equipment, washing of hands and physical distancing.

Over the last few days you may have noticed staff wearing extra protective equipment while working on the unit, such as gowns and masks. This early measure was taken as a precaution to protect you and staff members working on the unit.

We understand that this is a time of increased anxiety for you and your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask to speak with the nurse manager.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

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