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**Information Bulletin – Staff Outbreak – Unit 4B Mississauga Hospital**

***Dr. Lorne Small, Medical Director, Infection Protection & Control***

A number of health care workers at Mississauga Hospital, Medicine Unit 4B tested positive for COVID-19 between March 26, 2020 and April 5, 2020. 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 less than ten. All patients on the unit are being notified and are being actively monitored and will be tested immediately should they develop symptoms.

Following a consultation with Peel Public Health and out of an abundance of caution, we are declaring an outbreak of staff cases. A patient outbreak is defined as when a unit has two or more patients who test positive for a communicable disease, acquired in hospital, such as the flu. For COVID-19, however, there is no current guidance for declaring an outbreak among health care workers. This is an unprecedented time for our hospital, the province and our entire country, and we are working in partnership at all levels of government to adapt our processes and continually improve the way we protect staff and patients from COVID-19.

Our priority is the safety of our patients and staff at all times, and as a result of we have taken additional precautions on this unit including closing the unit to any new admissions, enhanced cleaning on the unit, and increased education on the use of personal protective equipment, increased washing of hands and physical distancing.

We understand the increased anxiety in our community and across our country related to COVID-19. Trillium Health Partners has been preparing to respond for the last two months and continues to take measures and actions to better protect our patients and people, this includes implementing even stronger infection protocols.

We are reminding everyone in our hospital and community the importance of washing your hands, keeping 2 metres apart from others, and if you are sick, stay home.

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For more information on Trillium Health Partners response, please visit [thp.ca](http://thp.ca)

Visit Ontario's [website](http://www.ontario.ca) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.