

2020-04-22

## **Information for patients and families about the medicine 8A COVID-19 outbreak**

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Grand River Hospital has declared an outbreak of COVID-19 on one of its medicine units, 8A.

In early April, a patient was admitted to hospital with no symptoms of COVID-19. After admission, the patient developed symptoms and tested positive for COVID by mid-April. A patient in the same room has also recently tested positive, as has a staff member who provided direct care to both patients.

### **How do I know I/my loved one is safe?**

The hospital has reached out to all patients and staff who may have been at risk of exposure and other patients who received care from the affected staff member have been isolated. The staff member who tested positive is currently isolating at home and will be able to return to work when they have had two negative tests within a 24-hour period.

### **Other measures the hospital has taken:**

The outbreak has been contained to the 8A hallway, with additional precautions implemented on hallways 8A, 8B and 8C to ensure the safety of all;

- Our infection prevention and control staff are working closely with our medicine program to watch for any potential new cases for quick intervention;
- Our housekeeping staff are providing additional cleaning of high-touch areas (door knobs, elevator buttons, bed rails, etc.);
- Staff will be wearing face shields/eye protection when the patients they are caring for won't wear a mask;
- Keeping staff working on one unit, as much as possible;
- Closing admissions of new patients to 8A; and
- Limiting admissions to 8B and 8C where possible.

### **What is an outbreak?**

There is no set criteria to define a hospital outbreak of COVID-19.

Grand River Hospital has used guidance provided for other respiratory illnesses to determine when an outbreak occurred; when two or more patients and/or staff test positive for a respiratory illness that was acquired in hospital within a timeframe that is consistent with the spread of the disease, and when there is a link between the cases.

### **What if I have questions about my/my loved one's risk?**

Please contact the Region of Waterloo Public Health at 519-575-4400.