

MEDIA RELEASE

Positive case confirmed at Spruce Hill Lodge



For Immediate Release — Saturday, April 11, 2020

Timmins, Ontario — Today, Dr. Lianne Catton, Medical Officer of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU), confirmed that a resident at Spruce Hill Lodge has tested positive for COVID-19. Dr. Catton said, “At this point in time the investigation is ongoing, however there is no known link to travel or any other cases. The resident is in self-isolation at the residence.”

“We understand that news could be upsetting for all involved, especially the staff, residents, and their family members,” says Dr. Catton, “But let me assure the public that we are working with Spruce Hill Lodge to ensure all necessary infection prevention and control measures are ongoing to contain the spread of COVID-19.” She adds that additional testing will be conducted during this investigation as per COVID-19 outbreak protocols.

The Porcupine Health Unit has declared a COVID-19 outbreak at Spruce Hill Lodge as per the Ministry of Health guidelines which deems that one positive case in a retirement residence is an outbreak. The staff at Spruce Hill Lodge are taking all the necessary precautions to reduce the risk of infection and prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Dr. Catton adds, “We wish all the best to all involved, including the family members who have loved ones living at Spruce Hill Lodge.”

The Porcupine Health Unit is located in Northeastern Ontario, serving the entire Cochrane District and Hornepayne, in Algoma District. The main office is located in Timmins, Ontario, with branch offices in Cochrane, Hearst, Hornepayne, Iroquois Falls, Kapuskasing, Matheson, Moosonee and Smooth Rock Falls.

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then use *Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool* (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0>) to see if you need to seek further care.

If you need further assistance, call TeleHealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or your health care provider. You can also call the Porcupine Health Unit at 705-267-1181 or toll-free 1-800-461-1818.

Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

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