

# Northwood

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## Northwood Outbreak Timeline

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*The following timeline provides a detailed account of the steps and measures taken at Northwood's Halifax facility in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please note that while the outbreak is at the Halifax facility, these steps and measures were also taken at the Northwood facility in Bedford where there have been no confirmed cases among residents or staff as of May 6, 2020.*

- March 2** Pandemic plan updated and refined to reflect COVID-19 situation
- March 4** General communication to staff/families/visitors on COVID-19: have a pandemic plan and are working with Public Health on steps to prepare
- March 10** Restricts visitors/volunteers from entering Northwood facilities if they have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days
- March 12** Activated pandemic plan; message to residents/families/employees
- Residents who travel outside Canada, or who visit people outside of the facility who have travelled outside Canada, require quarantine for 14 days
  - Screening by telephone required for staff who have travelled outside Canada
  - Heightened respiratory surveillance: daily monitoring for symptoms of colds and fevers for all residents, with daily reporting to Infection Control to monitor for data collection and monitoring trends
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): inventory of masks, gown, shields monitored daily; sufficient supply; will be allocated by IC if respiratory symptoms are identified; all staff expected to complete education session on proper use of PPE and review hand hygiene technique
  - Increased environmental disinfection for frequently touched areas, such as door knobs, handrails, elevator buttons, etc.; housekeepers will be regularly disinfecting frequently touched areas throughout the facilities; staff advised to disinfect common work stations/shared work spaces frequently
- March 13** Visitor and staff screening at all entrances; resident visiting is restricted to two designated visitors; no children under 16; no large programs/activities; device disinfection
- March 16** No longer permitting visitors of any kind; residents cannot leave the facility for social visits; If they do, they will not be permitted to return to the facility until the "No Visitors" mandate has been lifted; all staff, palliative resident visitors, and contractors [screened](#) at the main entrance\*
- March 25** As per WHO recommendations, staff are to wear a procedural mask when entering a room where a resident is suspected to have, or is confirmed to have, COVID-19; N95 masks for aerosol-generating medical procedures only in long-term care setting

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- March 27** Suspending all drop offs/deliveries to residents
- March 29** Staff assigned to specific sites from labour pool in an effort to reduce facility-to-facility spread
- March 31** Establishing a cohort area: temporarily relocating some residents to alternative rooms/locations to create a cohort area prepared to care for residents if they get sick with COVID-19
- April 5** One long-term care staff member tests positive, Public Health supports contact tracing, testing, and ensuring appropriate measures are put in place
- April 5** Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) protocol activated for long-term care employees
- April 6** Northwood begins masking employees; no PPE supply concerns
- April 7** First residents (five) test positive, transferred to treatment floor/cohort area
- April 9** Self-isolation requirements for home care workers in close contact with positive case communicated and activated
- April 12** Surgical mask now mandatory for health care workers in long-term care facilities
- April 14** Installation of thermal cameras for Halifax Centre and Bedford main entrances as adjunct to staff screening efforts at those locations; Northwood begins testing its own residents and staff, allowing expedited testing and receipt of results; testing conducted on anyone with symptoms as well as close contacts and are continually contact tracing and testing staff
- April 18** Death of first three residents reported; staff travelling between facilities is limited; full swab team on site to help with mass testing
- April 19** NSHA Infection Control experts (two) on site in addition to Northwood's infection control resources; implementing emergency plan; first recovered resident moved off site
- April 20** NW Emergency Operations Centre established with NSHA & DHW support; increased staffing resources from other partner organizations coordinated through EOC Ministerial Directive, redeploying staff from the HI COVID-19 unit to Northwood; increased resources to provide families with more frequent updates
- April 22** All residents being tested for COVID-19; virtual press conference; video posted online
- April 29** Virtual press conference, video posted online
- May 1** Four more residents send to off-site recovery unit, 16 total
- May 2** Recorded message to Northwood community

# Northwood

May 6

Virtual press conference, video posted online

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## **SCREENING PROCEDURES**

For all staff and contractors:

- Screening questions
- Cleaning of hands and cell phones
- Temperature checks
- On-duty staff leaving the building and returning need to repeat washing their hands with alcohol rub and must clean their cell phone
- If they have symptoms of respiratory illness, cough, fever, runny nose, generally feeling unwell they are to stay away from this site; if they have had any symptoms of gastrointestinal illness, diarrhea, or vomiting in the past 24 hours they are not to come to this site until they are 24 hours symptom free (48 hours for dietary staff)

Residents:

- Screening questions
- Cleaning of hands and cell phones
- Temperature checks
- All residents must remain on their units
- Palliative resident visitors met at the door by unit staff and provided with PPE, which must be discarded after visit
- Deliveries can be left at the entrance, wiped down, and a runner will deliver to the resident

Regular Northwood updates and videos can be found on the [Information Updates page](#) of our website.