

Simcoe Manor sees three new COVID-19 cases

Simcoe Manor in Beeton has seen a small increase in positive COVID-19 cases after numbers stagnated for two weeks.

Two new resident cases were confirmed in the home on October 31 and November 1.

One staff member, who tested negative during precautionary mass testing last Thursday, later developed symptoms and was quickly retested and determined to have COVID-19.

Simcoe Manor acted fast to re-contain transmission of the virus by retesting the residents who developed symptoms and placing them under droplet contact precautions, which remain in place.

One of the residents was transferred to enable cohorting and the staff member who tested positive is at home isolating.

The County of Simcoe continues to work closely with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) to trace the staff member's contacts.

Additional testing will occur for some residents following mass testing of 278 staff last Thursday.

SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Dr. Charles Gardner says there's been excellent support for managing the outbreak at Simcoe Manor.

"We have Simcoe County as the operator providing additional resources, recruiting additional staff to ensure sufficiency of care, bringing in enhanced sanitation and cleaning, with some resources from Stevenson Memorial Hospital," he noted.

"There's been resources from RVH [Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre] with management and direction from RVH and the provision of physician resources and infection prevention and control guidance."

There has been a total of 10 COVID-related deaths among Simcoe Manor residents to date.

By Sam Odrowski Local Journalism Initiative Reporter