

Media Release

COVID-19 Outbreak at Mountain Residence Declared Over

HAMILTON, July 28, 2020– Following 14 days without additional positive cases or symptoms being reported, Hamilton Public Health has declared the COVID-19 outbreak at Community Living Hamilton’s (CLH) Mountain group living residence to be over.

“I am pleased to report that the outbreak is over and that there has been no further transmission beyond the one staff member who fell ill,” said Sylvia D’Intino, CLH’s Executive Director. “This has been a stressful two weeks for all involved and collectively we are breathing a sigh of relief.”

The outbreak was initially declared after the agency alerted Hamilton Public Health that one of its staff members had tested positive for the virus. Five employees and four residents at the home who were at risk of exposure subsequently underwent testing and all test results came back negative for COVID-19.

As a result of the Universal Precautions and protective measures previously in place at the home, the risk of exposure to other employees and the clients living at the site was determined to be extremely low. This was the first and only case of COVID-19 among either CLH employees or clients since the pandemic began.

“From day one, we have been doing everything we can to keep our employees and the people we support as safe as possible,” said D’Intino. “We are grateful for our employees who have done an outstanding job and following the protocols in place, because we know without their vigilance things could have been much worse.”

The CLH employee who tested positive is in good spirits, but continues to quarantine at home as they wait for their symptoms to fully subside.

“We wish this employee all the best and look forward to welcoming them back to work once they are medically cleared to return,” added D’Intino.

For more information on CLH’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit:

<https://communitylivinghamilton.com/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/>.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY LIVING HAMILTON – Community Living Hamilton (CLH) is dedicated to helping people with special needs build great lives. It provides opportunities and support to 1,600 adults and children with diverse abilities across the Hamilton region. With 320 employees and 120 volunteers, CLH is the region's largest service provider for individuals with developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome and Autism. We assist our clients every day by empowering them to reach their full potential. Whether it's living independently or in a group setting, working in competitive employment, or sharing in community activities, we are here to help our clients achieve their goals and dreams.

Community Living Hamilton is very grateful for the funding support it receives from United Way Halton & Hamilton.