

# Oak Valley Health declares outbreak of COVID-19 at Markham Stouffville Hospital, 1WF Inpatient Mental Health Unit

January 5, 2022

Today, in consultation with York Region Public Health, an outbreak has been declared 1WF, Inpatient Mental Health Unit.

An outbreak as defined by the Ministry of Health, is two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases (patients and/or staff) within a specified area (unit/floor/service) within a 14-day period where both cases could have reasonably acquired their infection in the hospital.

Two patients have tested positive and two patients are under further investigation. All four patients are in the appropriate isolation and are being monitored closely.

As we continue to see community spread of COVID-19 during this overwhelming fifth wave of the pandemic brought on by the Omicron variant, Oak Valley Health remains vigilant.

As per outbreak management measures, we are conducting testing of patients and staff on the unit and have heightened infection prevention and control measures such as enhanced cleaning of the department and equipment, and ongoing auditing and reinforcement of personal protective equipment (PPE) practices within the department. The unit is currently closed to all visitors.

The health and safety of our patients, the community and our health care workers is paramount. The Infection Prevention and Control team at Oak Valley Health is working closely with York Region Public Health to ensure that best practice guidance is undertaken.

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