

Markham Stouffville Hospital Corporation declares outbreak of COVID-19 at the Markham site

May 16, 2020 - Yesterday, in consultation with York Region Public Health, an outbreak was declared in the Plant Maintenance department at the Markham site. Seven staff connected to this outbreak have tested positive for COVID-19 after an initial case was identified last week. All seven staff are at home recovering.

The definition of a COVID-19 outbreak in a hospital, as per guidance from the Ministry of Health on May 10 is as follows: 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.

It is important to note that the affected staff members did not enter any COVID-19 patient rooms. Once an outbreak was suspected a number of actions were quickly taken by the hospital's Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) department including enhanced cleaning of the Plant Maintenance department and re-training on infection prevention measures.

IPAC and York Region Public Health will be working closely together on the outbreak management process.

Our top priority is the safety of patients, our health care workers and the community. As we continue to see community spread of COVID-19, Markham Stouffville Hospital Corporation remains vigilant.

-- 30 --

Media contact:

Rebecca MacKenzie, Chief, Communications and Public Affairs
Markham Stouffville Hospital
rmackenzie@msh.on.ca
C: 437-220-1857