

Yee Hong Centre For Geriatric Care 2311 McNicoll Avenue Scarborough, Ontario M1V 5L3 Tel: 416.321.6333 Fax: 416.321.6313 E-mail: centre@yeehong.com Website: www.yeehong.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2020

## Positive test for COVID-19 at Yee Hong Markham Centre

MARKHAM – COVID-19 has been detected in one employee of the Yee Hong Markham Centre. York Region Public Health confirmed the test result from a swab collected March 25, 2020. In order to prevent an outbreak, and alongside York Region Public Health, we implemented isolation protocols on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our Markham Centre. The affected staff person is isolated at home and has not been in contact with our residents since March 24, 2020. We wish our colleague a speedy recovery.

The test result is unfortunate and comes in spite of our thorough and proactive response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. This is troubling news for our residents, their families and our dedicated staff on the floor, two of which are at home in self-isolation. The safety of our seniors, their families, our staff and volunteers is our top priority. The Yee Hong team had implemented a comprehensive pandemic plan which routinely assess and adjust. Effective immediately, new measures are in effect as we continue to protect our seniors' health and safety at the Markham Centre:

- outbreak protocols in place for residents with any symptoms of infection
- augmented cleaning of surfaces and high touch areas in the facility
- personal protective equipment for staff and cohorting of staff on each floor
- maintaining social distance between residents on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, including meal service directly to residents' rooms
- two close workplace contacts of the positive test staff person are on 14-day isolation at home

These steps are in addition to service restrictions announced March 12, 2020, for seniors living in the community, and other measures in effect since January 2020 in our long-term care homes. All Yee Hong Centres, including the Markham Centre, are operating with added protections for our seniors including cancelling outings, cancelling group activities, paid quarantine for staff suspected of COVID-19 exposure and enhanced hygiene of common areas and high touch surfaces.

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We continue to adjust our policies at each site as conditions change locally, and protocols are in place to actively screen employees entering Yee Hong buildings to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. Please consult <u>https://www.yeehong.com/covid-19/</u> for the latest information about building access, schedules, and safety provisions.

Hand hygiene remains the best way to stop the spread of infection. The cooperation of family members and other visitors is critical for keeping our residents safe within our long-term care homes.

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