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## News Release

April 4, 2017

For immediate release

### **Visitor restrictions lifted at Parkland Place in Melfort**

Visitor restrictions in place at Parkland Place in Melfort since Tuesday, March 14th were lifted on Tuesday, April 4th by the Kelsey Trail Health Region Medical Health Officer, Dr. Mohammad Khan.

An outbreak was declared at the facility on April 4th after symptoms associated with respiratory illness were reported among eight residents and one staff member. Symptoms included congestion, coughs and fatigue.

A significant number of residents and staff were impacted by the outbreak. Lab tests confirmed the outbreak was the result of Influenza A.

An outbreak is declared when a minimum of three residents, patients, clients or staff display symptoms of respiratory illness in a twenty-four hour period. As a result of the outbreak, long term care resident activities were canceled and precautions were put in place to help contain and minimize the spread of the virus.

“Visitors are asked to stay away from health care facilities when they are showing signs of illness,” stated Dr. Khan. “Visitors are also asked to exercise caution, including using hand cleanser or hand sanitizer, when entering and leaving health care facilities in an effort to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases.”

The public can help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses by:

- Always thoroughly wash hands with soap and warm water;
- Use hand sanitizer frequently, particularly if hand washing is not immediately possible;
- Use a tissue or the sleeve of your clothing to cover coughs and sneezes;
- Clean all surfaces thoroughly, especially taps, railings, door handles, and counters, at home and where groups of people congregate; and
- If ill, stay at home for at least 48 hours after the last symptoms to prevent spread to others.

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For more information, contact:

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