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News Release

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For immediate release

Visitor restriction at Chateau Providence due to respiratory outbreak

A respiratory outbreak, rather than gastrointestinal, has been declared among long term care residents at Chateau Providence in St. Brieux.

Symptoms associated with respiratory illness have been reported among six residents. Symptoms include sore throats, coughing, nausea and fatigue. Two staff reported symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea.

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.

Visitors of long term care residents in Chateau Providence are being restricted as the result of the outbreak. In addition, activities have been canceled and precautions have been put in place to help contain and minimize the spread of the virus.

"Though there have not been influenza cases in the region, other viruses are circulating in communities. People may carry the virus without being symptomatic and can transfer it to others," said Dr. Mohammad Khan, Medical Health Officer for the Kelsey Trail Health Region, "Proper hand washing with warm water and soap for at least 24-30 seconds is one of the most effective means of preventing the spread of communicable diseases."

Visitors to the facility are being restricted until further notice, with the exception of those visiting residents that are extremely ill. Individuals should check with the facility if they have any questions or concerns.

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For more information, contact:

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