



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, July 30, 2020)

RCDHU Response to Positive Case of COVID-19 in Deep River

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has become aware of concerns expressed through social media related to potential exposures on July 16th and 17th at The Whistle Stop in Deep River.

The individual was thought to have another condition and was not tested for COVID-19 until much later and the positive test was reported on July 27th.

RCDHU has since ensured that all necessary precautions were followed at The Whistle Stop to protect the safety of the public. As per protocol, public health nurses conducted thorough case management and contact tracing with the appropriate individuals and the business after receiving the positive test result.

The contacts identified by the positive case have all been tested and the results are all negative. This gives us added assurance along with the review of The Whistle Stop's impressive COVID-19 precautions, and we will not be doing further investigation of this case. The decision to close the Whistle Stop was made by the management and while we respect the decision, it was not as a result of an order or advice from the health unit.

We also feel confident that the positive case practiced the necessary public health measures when in enclosed public spaces. As well, RCDHU reviews public health measures with businesses where there may be potential exposures.

If it were not for the excellent public health measures being practiced by the case and the Whistle Stop, there could have been potential for greater exposure and the RCDHU would have investigated further.

Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit states, "As we continue to re-open the province, I cannot stress enough that it is everyone's responsibility to practice physical distancing and to wear a mask/face covering while in enclosed public spaces. This latest case is an example of where excellent public health practices have prevented further transmission of COVID-19."

In conclusion it is worth reminding people that if you develop any symptoms or are concerned about possible exposure to COVID-19, immediately self-isolate and contact Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (RCVTAC) at 1-844-727-6404 or RCDHU at 613-735-8654 or 1-800-267-1097 to arrange for testing.

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