



April 16, 2020

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, today has been a day focussed on changes in guidance from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Long-Term Care and Ontario Health. One of the new directions is as follows:

‘To protect the residents of long-term care homes and retirement homes across Ontario, we are asking Ontario hospitals to temporarily stop transferring patients to long-term care and retirement homes.’

We are appreciative of this new direction. It is extremely difficult for a person moving into St. Pat’s without having family support during the transition to living in a LTC home. Any resident who has been admitted in the past 3 weeks, has been in isolation for a minimum of 14 days and are tested for COVID-19 prior to being removed from isolation. **We have no known cases of COVID-19 as of today for residents or staff.**

I would also like to let you know the procedure used if someone (staff or residents) has any new symptoms that meet the case definition for COVID-19:

1. Place the symptomatic resident under contact/droplet precautions. Symptomatic staff are asked not to attend work and sent for COVID-19 testing and in self isolation at their home until test results are received.
2. Contact the local public health unit to notify them of a possible new case.
3. Test the symptomatic resident immediately (when swabs received from Public Health)
4. Test those residents who were in close contact (i.e., shared room) with the symptomatic resident and anyone else deemed high risk by the local public health unit.
5. While awaiting test results all those who have been tested remain in isolation and the staff providing care use the appropriate personal protective equipment. Staff who are tested remain off until the test results are received.

We are taking every effort to keep the residents and staff safe during this pandemic, and are following all of the expert guidance to the letter.

Be well and take care of yourself,

Janet Morris
President & CEO