



May 6, 2020

## **UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Hello, I unfortunately have to report that there are 2 residents who tested negative on Waterford last week but upon re-testing are now positive. These two residents were presenting with symptoms which is why they were retested. This was most likely from the initial contact which can incubate for a 14 day period and does not mean a new transmission. The reason that everyone is isolated for 14 days is due to the long incubation period and negative initial tests can later present as a positive result. The staff continue to work so hard to keep everyone safe and sound. We continue to screen all residents twice daily and anyone with any symptoms is placed in isolation and another swab is sent for testing. This has been and will continue to be our practice, so we will always have testing continuing. Staff who have any symptoms are also sent for testing and stay home until we receive a negative result. There are no new positive results for staff.

As you know we have been wearing masks all day which lowers the risk of infecting others, if someone is infected but without any symptoms. We are now going to add face shields to lower the risk of becoming infected when we cannot maintain a two meter separation, which is anyone doing personal care. Eye protection, such as goggles or face shields, are part of the PPE for respiratory precautions, however it is now being implemented for all those staff providing resident care and regular interactions with residents across the home when the two meter separation is impossible. This is another precaution for both the residents and the staff. It will be very strange for residents but it is felt to be another layer of protection which is important.

You may see when you have skype, facetime or window visits, some staff have been wearing caps or headbands. This is not a new fashion statement. These were donated to St. Pat's by a volunteer group called, Sewing for Ottawa and provide buttons on the side to hook the masks onto, helping to protect the staff's ears! A big thank you also to Linda Rombough, a family member of a resident, for the kind donation of 200 cloth masks for staff for home use. We are most appreciative of these practical and kind gifts supporting staff wellness.

Although everyone was anxious and stressed when we found out that we had positive cases last week, we still had some fun on crazy hat day last Friday and today I am sending some of these pictures. Even with the masks I hope that you can see the smiles shining through.

We miss everyone and hope that you are well,

**Janet Morris**  
President & CEO



*St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa, 2865 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8N5 (613) 731-4660*