



May 29, 2020

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, I am happy to let you know that we have no further positive test results as of today. We continue to work toward having the outbreak resolved as of May 30 following Ottawa Public Health's final confirmation tomorrow. We are keeping all of our fingers and toes crossed!

What does this mean going forward? We will still be asking residents to limit their movement within the home and to remain 6 feet away from other residents. We will be monitoring residents movement in the building to minimize contact between residents and asking residents to wear a mask when they are outside of their room. This will require the staff to use their best persuasive techniques and it will not always be successful, but we will do our best. Masks in the community are not always worn either!

Dining will be modified, with only 8-9 people going to the dining room at one time for meal service, with a rotating schedule for residents. The reason for this is that we will only be able to seat one resident at a table right now, to maintain the 6 foot separation. Staff will provide meal service in the resident room for those not attending the dining room during that meal and will continue to assist those who cannot eat independently.

We have ordered plexiglass screens for the dining room tables but they have not yet been delivered. Once these are delivered we will be able to seat two people per table with the plexiglass screens in between them, therefore reducing the transmission risk. When the shields are in place, we will be able to seat 16 people in the dining room per meal. Each resident will eat one meal in the dining room per day. The other meal will be served in their room. Breakfast will continue to be served in the resident rooms for the time being.

The elevator will also have some restrictions for residents, again as we maintain a physical distance. No more than 2 residents will be on the elevator together, and we are marking the places they can be positioned in the elevator. Again, this will take again some persuasion! Residents who cannot understand or follow the directions will need to be escorted by staff.

The Larry Kelly Garden will be open but again with restrictions. A schedule is being set up so that only one resident home area at a time will have access. The garden will be supervised to ensure that physical distancing is maintained. Other outdoor areas will also be available for those residents who are independent and able to maintain their physical distance or those being accompanied by a staff member.

We know that families are very sad and upset as your contact with the people living here has been severely restricted for a long time. No one thought in March that this would last for so long. I would like to assure you that there are families who have and continue to come in to St. Pat's to spend time with their loved one who is seriously ill or at the end of their life. Families are also coming in to support residents who have had a significant change in their condition (eg. refusal to eat, escalation in responsive behaviour). We will contact families when staff have tried everything we can but have not been successful but the family is able to support until the resident has improved or is stable.

I know that there are a number of discussions occurring about how and when family will be able to come back to LTC homes being held at the provincial level, and we look forward to hearing that guidance. We do truly miss all of you!

Keep well and safe,

Janet Morris
President & CEO

