



July 27, 2020

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

Hello, very unfortunately we have to report that we have received a positive COVID-19 test result for a staff member from last week's surveillance testing. The outbreak definition is one staff or resident who is positive, so we are considered in whole home outbreak. The staff member is asymptomatic and self-isolating at home. All of the families on the two home areas where the staff member has worked will be called directly today.

I am very aware that this is of great concern to everyone and we are working very closely with Public Health to ensure that we have all of the necessary measures in place. We are aware that this is not the most personal way to communicate this to everyone, but it is the most efficient and quickest way to communicate to all.

As with our first COVID-19 outbreak, we will continue to be transparent during this outbreak and will make sure that we keep in touch as we move forward.

The directions, at this point, from Public Health are:

1. All residents in the home will be COVID-19 tested. Once the swabs are delivered we will begin testing and will prioritize testing the residents on the two home areas where the staff member worked.
2. The necessary droplet/contact precautions will be used for each resident on the two affected home areas. All other home areas are on droplet precautions. Staff doing direct care will be wearing eye protection (face shield or goggles) in addition to universal masking that has been ongoing.
3. Residents on the two affected home areas will eat all of their meals in their room. Residents on all other home areas will continue on their scheduled days to have meals in the dining room maintaining a safe distance from others at all times.
4. Indoor visiting will be suspended for all visitors except essential visitors while we are in outbreak. As defined by the Ministry of Long-Term Care, this includes: persons performing essential support services (e.g. food delivery, inspector, maintenance, or health care services (e.g. phlebotomy)) or a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident. Garden visits must also be suspended. We will be looking at enhancing virtual visiting during the outbreak over the next few days.
5. Hairdressing services will be stopped. Physiotherapy services will continue.

In addition to this guidance, our existing measures to prevent the introduction or spread of infection will continue. This includes actively screening all staff and residents twice a day, enhanced cleaning on all home areas and limiting staff movement between home areas.

This is not the news that we wanted but we will work very hard in collaboration with Public Health to provide safe care to all of the residents. We are committed to working tirelessly with all resources available to us to ensure the health and well being of the entire St. Pat's family.

Stay healthy and safe,

***Janet Morris***

President & CEO