



August 31, 2020

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, as many of you may have heard in the news the Chief Medical Officer of Health has changed the Directive for Short Stay Absences and Temporary Absences. The following is a summary of the Directive and the recommendations specific for the residents living at St. Patrick's Home.

The goal of these requirements are to keep all of the residents, visitors and staff safe from the potential of Covid19 entering our Home. We remain Covid19 free today!

Absences

Effective immediately, residents can spend time away from the long-term care homes for day trips or overnight absences.

Short Stay Absences

- Residents may leave the home's property on a short stay absence for health care-related, social, or other reasons. This does not include an overnight stay, except for single-night emergency room visits
- Residents on a short stay absence **must wear a medical mask at all time when outside the home** (if tolerated). The home must provide the medical mask and remind residents about the importance of public health measures including physical distancing.
- Residents returning from a short stay absence must be actively screened but are not required to be tested or self-isolate
- Emergency room visits that take place over a single night (e.g. assessment and discharge from the emergency department spans one overnight period) should also be considered equivalent to an outpatient medical visit that does not require testing or self-isolation upon return

St. Patrick's Home Requirement:

Although the guidance does not specifically address the need for Covid19 testing, we expect that everyone taking a resident out of the Home would provide attestation that they are Covid19 negative within the past 14 days.

We strongly recommend that any short stay outing be in private homes or for medical appointments and not in public spaces such as a shopping or a restaurant. The current public health guidance is to limit the number of public areas that we go to and we feel that exposing residents to public areas is an unnecessary risk for their protection and the protection of all of the residents, staff and visitors at St. Pat's.

Anyone with the resident must wear a mask at all times. Please do not remove your mask for eating or drinking in the presence of the resident, unless the resident has a mask on and/or you are physically distanced from them.

Please speak to the RPN about any short term outing to make the appropriate arrangements.

Temporary Absences

- Residents may also leave the home's property for a temporary absence (one or more nights) for personal reasons. Homes must review and approve the temporary absence based on a case-by-case risk assessment outlined on page 5 and 6 of Directive #3
- All residents returning from a temporary absence are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to protect their neighbours
- If a home denies a temporary absence request, the home must communicate this to the resident/substitute decision maker in writing, including the rationale for this decision

St. Patrick's Home Requirement:

Prior to making arrangements for a Temporary Absence, please make your request to either Monique Patterson, VP, Nursing or Pam Smith, Assistant VP, Nursing so we can ensure that all necessary arrangements are made.

Although the guidance does not specifically address the need for Covid19 testing, we expect that everyone taking a resident out of the Home would provide attestation that they are Covid19 negative within the past 14 days.

The resident will be in isolation for 14 days upon their return. This will occur in a private room, so if the resident is currently in basic accommodation, they will need to isolate in a different room, and based upon the availability of a private room, this may occur on a different home area. Upon the completion of the 14 days of isolation the resident will return to their own room.

Be well and safe,

Janet Morris
President and CEO