



September 26, 2020

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

Hello, we have some good news! We have received the one resident test result we were waiting for and it is negative! Ottawa Public Health has officially declared the outbreak over!

Residents on Kerry are now able to resume their scheduled meal times in the Dining Room. In addition, residents on all home areas are no longer isolated to their rooms although maintaining a physical distance between residents will continue. In addition, there will be no co-mingling of residents from different home areas.

General visiting may also resume. All visitors that attest to having tested negative for COVID-19 in the two weeks prior to their visit are now welcome back to St. Pat's. Keep in mind that each resident is only permitted two visitors at a time. Please coordinate visiting with your family members or caregivers. Visiting is still restricted to the resident room or outdoors. Please remember that you are to visit only your resident.

Garden visiting will resume on Monday September 28, 2020. The schedule to October 4, 2020 is posted on the website here: <https://stpats.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Garden-Visit-Schedule-September-7-October-4.pdf> An extended schedule will be available on Monday.

We will also be returning to universal masking only. Staff and visitors will no longer be required to wear eye protection (face shields or goggles).

Readmissions and new admissions will also resume. Residents currently in hospital will be able to return to St. Pat's.

Short stay and temporary absences may also resume. As a reminder, we are including the original guidance sent out regarding these absences.

### **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 COVID-19 testing, we expect that everyone taking a resident out of the Home would provide attestation that they are COVID-19 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 COVID-19 testing, we expect that everyone taking a resident out of the Home would provide attestation that they are COVID-19 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.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend,

***Janet Morris***  
President and CEO