



November 19, 2020

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, unfortunately I have to report that we have a positive resident case on Wexford, therefore we have one positive resident case currently in the home. This resident was tested due to showing some symptoms and the test result has come back today as positive. The staff are closely monitoring all residents for any typical or atypical symptoms of COVID-19 and are ensuring that anyone with symptoms is placed on full isolation precautions and tested. The staff are to be commended for quickly identifying any symptoms and putting the necessary precautions in place immediately.

The new guidance for surveillance testing is to test people approximately five days after a potential exposure to COVID-19. Therefore, all residents on Wexford are being tested today for surveillance and all residents on Cavan are scheduled for surveillance testing tomorrow.

As you may have heard in the news from the Premier, to further protect long-term care home residents, staff and visitors, the Ontario government is updating testing guidance in communities with greater transmission of COVID-19. Although we have not yet received this direction formally, the public announcement identifies that starting next week, in long-term care homes in public health unit regions in the Orange-Restrict, Red-Control and Lockdown levels under the COVID-19 Response Framework, the following changes will be made:

1. Staff, essential caregivers and support workers who provide direct care to residents need to be tested for COVID-19 weekly and show proof of a negative test result. (Essential caregivers are defined as designated caregivers as well as those visiting a resident who is receiving end of life care).
2. Support workers who do not provide direct care to residents must verbally attest to having received a negative COVID-19 test result in the past two weeks and not subsequently tested positive.

For long-term care homes in regions at the Green-Prevent and Yellow-Protect levels, testing will continue every two weeks for staff, volunteers, caregivers and visitors.

Ottawa is currently in the Orange-Restrict level, therefore this would be applicable to all LTC Homes in Ottawa including St. Pat's. We are awaiting the formal direction, but it is important to let you know that this change will be coming soon to allow you to prepare for this new weekly requirement for COVID-19 testing. We are in the process of planning for how we can test almost 400 staff weekly which has a significant workload demand. I know that this will be a burden for everyone but it is now our reality.

Be well,

Janet Morris
President and CEO

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