



February 17, 2021

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, now that St. Pat's is outbreak free there are few changes we can now make. There are a number of changes occurring with the change to Orange Level in Ottawa as well as new testing guidelines being implemented.

Rapid Testing

The province has identified that LTC Homes will now move to rapid testing and all homes must be fully implemented by March 15.

Our implementation started on February 15 with the use of rapid testing for the agency sitters.

On February 22, 2021, we will implement rapid testing for staff. We are finalizing the schedules and processes for the staff to be ready for next week.

Rapid testing for designated caregivers will begin on March 1, 2021. The current guidelines states:

Caregivers, support workers and general visitors undergo an Antigen Test on the "day of" regardless of how many times they attend to a home in a 7-day period and before contact with residents.

I know that for the designated caregivers, the burden of daily testing for every visit is significant. There is a lot of discussion and advocacy occurring on the frequency of designated caregiver and support worker testing throughout the province, however at this time the guidance from the Ministry of LTC is as outlined above and will require designated caregivers to be tested each day that they visit. We will keep you informed if this changes.

The rapid testing for staff will be at the start of their shift and we will be testing staff on the resident home area where they work. However, there are a number of staff who will be tested on the ground floor, as they are not designated to a specific home area. This will also be the same location for the designated caregiver rapid testing. We know based on staff work schedules that there will be peak staff testing times, and would request that designated caregivers avoid these times as your wait to be tested will be longer. These peak times will be 8am, 9am, and 11am. We will test staff first so that they can get to their work area, so at these time designated care givers will have a longer wait. At other non-peak times the wait will be shorter.

Also as a reminder please try not to enter the building between 2:30 to 3:15 pm. At shift change there are a large number of staff entering and exiting the building and the screening area becomes congested making it difficult to get everyone screened in a physically distanced manner. It takes much less time at other times of the day, so scheduling your visits at another time makes your life easier.

Hairdressing

We are happy to let you know that hairdressing will reopen on March 8. Jo-Anne Clarke is available to return on March 8.

Mass

Mass can now resume, one home area at a time as per our previous schedule. A small group of residents from the same home area will be able to attend in person in the Gathering Place, physically distanced starting tomorrow.

Stay safe and stay warm!

Janet Morris

President and CEO