



February 26, 2021

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hi, here is the draft for today:

Hello, we remain outbreak free. Let's keep this up!

Rapid testing for staff starts on Sunday, February 28th. The staff will be tested in a number of areas throughout the home, at the start of their shift and will make every effort to minimize interaction with residents until they receive their results. Not all staff are being tested on the same day so some can start their day right away, others will be waiting for the test result. As we start this new required rapid testing we know that it will take some time to work through all of the kinks and will be making adjustments to make it efficient and practical as we learn through the next few weeks.

Rapid testing for designated caregivers will start on Monday March 8th. Designated caregivers and some staff will be tested on the main floor, past the reception area.

We will have testing capacity 7 days per week, but there are some peak times for staff testing (8am.; 9 am. and 11am.) Designated caregivers are asked to plan your visits outside of these peak times so that the wait time will be less. On a daily basis we have approximately 90-100 designated caregivers who visit, so we know there may also be other times where there is a line up for rapid testing.

There are three options you can choose for the swab – Nasopharyngeal (swab in one nostril to the back); Deep nasal (swab deep in both nostrils) or a triple swab (both sides of your throat and one nostril – not deep). Everyone has different preferences and you can make your choice.

We are all being tested to protect the residents and each other. I know that the small sacrifice that we are all making with regular rapid testing will make a difference as we will be able to identify any asymptomatic positive cases sooner, and minimize exposure.

Also as a reminder, please avoid arriving between 2:30pm and 3:15pm. as it is shift change and the screening area becomes very busy. Staff will be the first to be screened so that they can get to work so designated caregivers may have a wait for screening during this time.

Public Health educational material on IPAC procedures have previously been provided in the updates and is available on St. Pat's website: <https://stpats.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/IPAC-Education-for-Visitors-FINAL.pdf> Please take a few minutes to review this information regularly for your protection and the protection of the residents, staff and other designated caregivers.

Have a safe and restful weekend,

Janet Morris
President and CEO

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