



March 30, 2021

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, all results have been negative for the staff surveillance testing. Staff continue with both rapid and PCR testing this week.

We have received all of the resident results and all are negative which is great news.

Vaccination Booking

We have been informed that telephone number to book a vaccination is no longer in use by Ottawa Public Health. There is now a process to register on line for the vaccination. Please find the link to the Ottawa Public Health site to book a vaccination. This is applicable to staff and designated caregivers for LTC Homes.

<https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/covid-19-vaccine.aspx#Staff-and-caregivers-in-designated-retirement-homes-or-residents-in-all-retirement-homes-Staff-caregivers-and-residents-in-all-Long-term-care-homes>

Resident Absences

We have had a few questions recently about residents leaving the home for outings. Unfortunately, there are restrictions on absences at this time as we are in outbreak, however, these restrictions also apply as Ottawa remains in a red zone. The following is the information from Directive 3, issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, regarding absences:

Absences:

All non-medical absences need to be approved by the LTCH. **In the event of an outbreak in the LTCH, all non-essential absences should be discontinued.**

The resident or substitute decision maker must make an absence request to the LTCH. LTCHs must review and approve all non-medical absence requests based on a case by case risk assessment considering, but not limited to, the following:

- The LTCH's ability to support self-isolation for 14 days upon the resident's return.
- Local disease transmission and activity.
- The risk associated with the planned activities that will be undertaken by the resident while out of the LTCH.
- The resident's ability to comply with local and provincial policies/ bylaws.
- Any further direction provided by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC).

For LTCHs located in public health unit regions where there is evidence of increasing/significant community transmission i.e., Orange (Restrict), Red (Control) or Grey (Lockdown) levels in the provincial COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open, absences are not permitted except for medical or compassionate reasons.

Be well and stay safe,

Janet Morris
President and CEO