



April 14, 2021

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, I hope that everyone is coping in the most recent shut down. It is a challenge for everyone.

A staff member had a positive rapid test last night and is now isolating at home awaiting the results from the PCR.

Carlow is currently on full droplet contact precautions upon receiving this result, and we are in communication with Ottawa Public Health regarding this positive rapid test. The new definition of outbreak is being reviewed, balanced with a need to identify any residents who may have had a contact exposure and ensure that we limit any potential transmission within the home area. Residents on Carlow will be tested today. As we get further information we will keep you informed.

It is so wonderful to see people out and about and enjoying the beautiful spring we are experiencing. Thank you to everyone for following all of the required infection prevention and control protocols to keep the residents, staff and other designated caregivers safe.

There have been a few questions recently about people visiting who are not designated caregivers. The following information from the Chief Medical Officer of Health is in place:

Designated caregivers are the only type of visitors allowed when:

- *A resident is self-isolating or symptomatic, or*
- *A LTCH is in an outbreak, or*
- *The LTCH is located in a public health unit region where there is evidence of increasing/significant community transmission i.e., Orange (Restrict), Red (Control) or Grey (Lockdown) zones or during Shutdown in the provincial COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open.*

In circumstances when a resident is at end of life, other visitors can come in for a visit following discussion with the RN or the VP/AVP Nursing.

There have also been requests regarding residents going out for visits to other family or for the weekend, and here is the following information from the Chief Medical Officer of Health:

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) zones or during Shutdown in the provincial COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open, absences are not permitted except for medical or compassionate reasons. (compassionate reasons would mean visiting someone outside the home who is palliative).

Unfortunately, the entire province is currently in a lockdown situation and therefore both of the above restrictions remain in place.

Stay strong and stay well,

Janet Morris
President and CEO