



April 30, 2021

## **UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Hello, we have no additional positive cases. As of today, the resident isolation on Donegal is complete and these residents can return to the dining room, activity programs, outdoor walks and hairdressing services.

Some residents on Dublin remain on isolation precautions unfortunately.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Long Term Care provided an updated Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007, Issued under Section 77.7 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA), R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7 late last week. The following are the significant changes identified as explained by the Ministry of LTC:

### **1. Modified Isolation Requirements for residents moving into or returning to LTC Homes**

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) has issued an updated Directive #3 with modified isolation requirements for residents who are being admitted / transferred to a home that reflect the impact of vaccination and the latest scientific understanding of incubation periods:

- For fully immunized\* residents, a lab-based PCR test is required at time of admission/transfer. The individual must be placed in isolation if the test result is pending. If the test result is negative, the individual does not need to isolate.
- For partially immunized or unimmunized residents, a laboratory-based PCR test is required at time of admission/transfer and the resident must be placed in isolation for a minimum of 10 days. In order for isolation to discontinue on day 10, the individual must have a negative test result on day 8.

\*"Fully immunized" means a person has received the total number of required doses of vaccine approved by Health Canada (e.g., two doses) and it has been at least 14 days since they received their final dose.

### **2. Copayments**

The ministry will waive the copayment for LTC residents who agree to move to a LTC home that is not their preferred home. The waiver will apply until they are transferred to a home of their choosing or decline an offer to move to their preferred home, and they will maintain their priority status on the waitlist of their preferred home in the meantime. This change is aimed at supporting LTC residents' when considering available placement opportunities in safe, appropriate homes and further enables temporary placements outside of hospitals while they wait for their preferred home.

This week the Ministry of Health, by emergency order has identified that in situations where there is a major issue at a hospital, people will be required to move to a LTC home without their consent, although it is identified as a only is very defined circumstances.

### **3. Single Site Order**

Recognizing the success of COVID-19 vaccines and the provincial vaccination program that prioritized LTC homes, fully immunized (see above definition) LTC staff are now able to work in more than one LTC home, health care setting or retirement home (unless otherwise directed by a local medical officer of health). Widespread vaccination in the long-term care sector has meant significant reductions in cases and outbreaks, creating an environment where this change can be made safely to support additional staff capacity in homes.

Ottawa Public Health has identified that all of these actions are supported for implementation in Ottawa and therefore we will start to see these changes at St. Pat's as new people move into our home. You may also see some familiar faces at St. Pat's who have been gone for a year or so!

The next update is planned for Monday May 3, 2021.

Be well and stay safe,

***Janet Morris***  
President and CEO