



June 30, 2021

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, I hope that you are enjoying the summer weather.

We have had no positive Covid results and are very thankful to everyone for keeping the residents safe.

Yesterday we received some new guidance on visitors based partially on the Stage 2 re-opening plan for the province. These new guidelines are very appreciated and expand the number of visitors who can come and visit in LTC Homes.

The following are the new guidelines regarding visiting which will be **effective July 7**.

- The limit of two designated caregivers per resident is removed. Processes to identify persons as designated caregivers continue to be in place. The substitute decision maker/power of attorney or capable residents should complete the Designated Caregiver form to add new designated caregivers to the list. The form is attached but can also be picked up from the screener.
- All residents may have up to 2 general visitors and 2 designated caregivers at a time for an indoor visit.
- Designated caregivers and general visitors are able to have different levels of contact with a resident based upon their immunization status. General visitors who visit indoors will be rapid tested prior to going to the resident home area, and their immunization status will be requested as well to determine their ability to have close contact. We will continue to use the yellow badges to identify those who can have close contact.
- Up to 10 people at a time can come for an outdoor visit with a long-term care home resident. We would ask that these gatherings be at the front of the home as it will be difficult to accommodate this large number of people in the garden. All general visitors meeting a resident outdoors must continue to come into the home for screening.
- Cohorting of residents can be relaxed during outdoor activities. Therefore, as of July 7 the garden schedule will no longer be required as the purpose was to cohort residents based upon their home areas. We ask visitors and residents from different home areas to keep physically distanced as much as possible. People can use the garden whenever they are here and not based upon a schedule.
- The garden visit schedule for general visitors will remain in place until July 6. As of July 7 there will no longer be a schedule for visits in the garden.

Masks continue to be required for all visits whether indoors or outdoors. Visitors cannot eat or drink when visiting a resident as they will need to keep their mask. Please feel free to continue to bring treats for the resident, but unfortunately visitors cannot partake.

Rapid testing is still required for all indoor visitors and has not changed.

Meal Service and Activities

As we have achieved the threshold of vaccination of staff and residents to allow less physical distancing in the dining rooms and during activities, we will be making some modifications to meal services. As of Monday, July 5 we can return to having 4 residents at a dining room table during meal service and during activities. The residents must eat at the same table for all meals to ensure that the close contact is limited to the people at the table. Visitors who are vaccinated can join the residents in the dining room at their table for meals or for activities.

Development of Senior Housing

St. Patrick's Home has been in the process of exploring and developing a project plan for a number of years on services to further support seniors outside of the provision of LTC services. Please find attached a link to a summary of the planning project to date and the current status of this planning regarding the development of a supportive and affordable seniors apartment building: <https://stpats.ca/development-of-senior-housing/> This is an exciting project to continue our mission to serve those who need support to remain in their community.

Stay well and safe,

Janet Morris

President and CEO