



July 16, 2021

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, we have had no positive COVID-19 results and are very thankful to everyone for keeping the residents safe.

With Ontario entering Step 3 of the “Roadmap to Reopen” today we have implemented some changes as described in Wednesday’s update. The updated requirements are summarized in a snapshot provided by the Ministry and available on our website here: https://stpats.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/LTC-Visitor_Absences_Social-Gatherings-Snapshot_July-13_FINAL.pdf

We are also attaching the family/visitor relevant portions of a communication that was sent out to staff regarding these latest changes. We are still awaiting updated guidance on a few items and will share this when received.



Stay safe and be well,

Janet Morris
President and CEO

	<p>Staff that work at St. Pat’s cannot be a private paid caregiver.</p>
<p>Screening- Passive and Active screening</p> <p style="color: red;">***There may be further updates in regards to screening***</p>	<p>No changes for screening for staff and visitors to enter the building or for outdoor visits. Everyone MUST be screened.</p> <p>There is currently no update to the screening tool. We are receiving questions in regards to people coming from out of Canada and the requirements related to this. At this time, I do not have the answer. As soon as the screening document is updated, this will be communicated.</p>
<p>Testing and surveillance</p> <p>Staff definition includes agency staff provided by the home, volunteers, students and contractors.</p>	<p>Anyone who is “Fully” immunized with a COVID vaccine <u>does not</u> have to undergo any rapid testing, if they provide proof of vaccination.</p> <p>Anyone who is not Fully vaccinated is to be rapid tested as follows: Staff: <u>if one vaccine</u> and it has been 14 days since the vaccine was administered: 3 times per week if Fulltime/ Every 48 hours if Part-time. <u>: if unvaccinated:</u> Rapid testing every shift</p> <p>Anyone person visiting the home for any reason If not fully vaccinated: rapid testing is every 48 hours. If someone has a PCR test in a week, they only need one rapid test in that week.</p> <p>We will accept proof of a rapid test from another facility if it is an official proof of the rapid test, with a date, the person’s name, facility name and result. We also will provide an official letter to anyone who asks at the rapid testing room.</p> <p>Anyone who is symptomatic regardless of immunization status MUST be encouraged to have a PCR done. People are asked not to come into the building if they will answer any of the screening questions with a YES.</p> <p>Public Health must be notified of any positive PCR swabs or rapid test swabs (VP/AVP of Nursing is to be notified immediately)</p> <p>IF anyone has been previously COVID positive they do not have to be tested until the 91st after the date of the Positive PCR swab.</p>

	<p>If anyone is visiting a resident at EOL and fails screening- they may visit with the use of PPE. We ask that all visitors seeing a palliative resident follows the rapid testing process unless they are urgently visiting/ been called to come in ASAP.</p>
<p>Hand hygiene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURE in infection control and prevention 	<p>Proper hand hygiene is the most important measure in the prevention of the spread of viruses, bacteria and parasites. Do not touch your face with hands that have not just been cleaned or sanitized. It is important that PROPER hand hygiene is done to ensure that you have rid your hands of the majority of the organisms on your hands that you collect as you touch people and things. Hand hygiene education and audits are ongoing for staff. Visitors are to watch the IPAC education every 30 days on hand hygiene and IPAC processes, to ensure the safety of self and others. These are located on ST. PATS website.</p>
<p>Physical Distancing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This applies even when people are masked 	<p><u>Everyone</u> should practice physical distancing with others (a minimum of 2m) at all times, except for the purposes of providing direct care to a resident. Additionally, the following exceptions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ For residents to have a brief physical contact with their visitors ❖ Between Fully immunized visitors and an immunized resident ❖ For the purposes of a palliative/End of Life visit ❖ During the provision of personal care services (e.g., haircutting)
<p>Masking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating and drinking 	<p><u>ALL persons who are not residents MUST be masked at all times indoors and outdoors.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Masks must be covering your mouth and nose and chin at ALL times ❖ No eating and drinking unless you are 2m from any other person ❖ No eating or drinking on resident HOME areas unless you are a resident. This includes any visitor. ❖ If visitors must eat or drink, there are areas on the main floor and outside, but you MUST be 2M from ANY other person-

	<p>this especially includes the resident you are visiting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ You must change your mask to a surgical mask upon entry. There are paper bags for your personal mask to be put in, until you leave the building. The mask we provide must be discarded on exit of the building and your mask you came in with put back on while you are on the premises. The screeners will provide verbal instructions as well, there is signage reminding people of the steps. ❖ OUTDOOR visitors have to come in to screen but can wear their own mask outdoors. They do not have to change to a surgical mask. <p>Resident Masking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents are strongly encouraged to wear a mask if able at all times outside of their rooms, except when eating. • Residents are encouraged to wear a mask when they have any visitors as well. • Masks for residents are available on every home area. Ask a staff member. • Residents are to remain eating with their cohort (table mates and anyone 2m from their table) to minimize the number of people residents are exposed to without a mask.
<p>Eye Protection</p>	<p>Eye Protection is required for all staff and essential visitors (including caregivers) when they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Providing care to residents who are self-isolating due to suspected/confirmed COVID-19 case (symptomatic) ➤ Providing direct care to residents within 2 meters in an outbreak area <p>Eye protection is no longer required at all times. But is to be used as noted above.</p> <p><u>Screeners</u> must wear eye protection while screening anyone.</p>
<p>Cohorting</p>	<p>Resident Cohorting: residents still must remain in cohorts. Residents will have their dining</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grouping of people who will be classified together- cohort 	<p>cohort but will also be cohorted by home area. We will continue to keep home areas separated as much as possible. Remember this when visiting or portering a resident to ensure you do not mix your resident with another resident or visitor from another home area. If you see an unmasked resident keep yourself and your resident you are visiting or portering 2M away from that unmasked resident. If there is an unmasked resident in the elevator, do not enter. Wait patiently for the next elevator.</p>
<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communal Dining ➤ Organized events and social gatherings, including spiritual gatherings ➤ Secure Garden area 	<p>Communal Dining: Residents are to <u>ALL</u> go to the dining room now. Staff will be deployed to the dining rooms to ensure adequate assistance with meals. The only residents who will be served trays in their rooms are the residents who are on isolation for symptoms that are potentially contagious. Residents are to use the same seating each meal to ensure that Cohorting is in place. WE must follow MOLTC standards around supervision during meal times, so staff will be deployed to the dining rooms at meal times to ensure adequate supervision and assistance for all residents.</p> <p>Organized events and social and spiritual gatherings: Residents and Fully vaccinated visitors may enjoy organized events, social and spiritual gatherings in each cohort. Residents will be cohorted by home areas as we have been doing. Residents do not have to be 2M apart but are still encouraged to wear a mask at the gathering. Events can now include singing and dancing. Avoid using shared items. Ensure hand hygiene is done before and after any event.</p> <p>If a Home organized event is held outdoors, residents from other home areas can mix together following the a 2M physical distancing, masking and hand hygiene requirements.</p> <p>There is no longer a schedule for the secure garden area. Please follow Cohorting processes and remain 2M (physical distance) from others, including other residents. Residents from the</p>

<p>➤ Off-site excursions</p>	<p>same cohort can gather together indoors and outdoors.</p> <p>Off-site excursions: Home organized off-site excursions can now occur by each cohort. Ensure hand hygiene and masking requirements are followed.</p>
<p>Personal Care Services</p>	<p>Hairdressing can have more than one resident in the hairdressing room as long as they are from the same cohort (home area). Disinfect chairs and frequently touched items before bringing any residents from other home areas to the hairdressing room.</p>
<p>Physiotherapy Room</p>	<p>This room can now be accessed by one resident at a time. Equipment must be disinfected between each resident use.</p> <p>Physio and Restorative staff are to collaborate on a schedule.</p>
<p>Absences</p> <p>****there may be further updates in regards to this****</p>	<p>Residents, regardless of their vaccination status can go out on social absences. Following the physical distancing, masking and hand hygiene requirements are very important when on outings as well as outlined in this document.</p> <p>OVERNIGHT absences can also occur. Isolation and testing are still required on return until the PCR results are back and negative.</p> <p>Overnight absences need to be run by clinical to ensure there is a room for isolation on return.</p> <p>Just a reminder, for all absences, the nursing staff need to be informed so they can prepare medications and document to ensure the absence is communicated.</p>