



October 6, 2021

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, we continue to be Covid19 clear at St. Pat's. Our focus must remain on keeping residents, staff and people visiting their loved ones as designated caregivers and general visitors as safe as possible.

The provincial government has identified that there are increased requirements for both vaccination and surveillance using rapid tests in long term care homes, and today the outline of how these are being implemented at St. Pat's is being provided.

Covid19 Vaccinations

The province announced on Friday, Oct. 1 that all staff, volunteers, students and support workers working in long term care must be vaccinated by Nov. 15 or they cannot enter the long term care home. St. Pat's was in the process on Friday of informing the staff who were not yet vaccinated that the home had adopted a mandatory Covid 19 vaccination policy. The home's policy requires that all staff must be fully vaccinated - have the two doses of the vaccination and have the full 14 day period for full immunization by Nov. 19, 2021. This will require that the staff have received both doses of the vaccine by Nov. 5, which exceeds the requirement set out by the provincial government. Currently there are 16 staff who are not yet vaccinated and we are very hopeful that they will choose to get the vaccination.

Designated Caregivers and General Visitors New Protocols

The province did not mandate vaccination for designated caregivers or general visitors at this time, however for the protection of everyone at St. Pat's, we strongly encourage everyone entering the home to be vaccinated. We are also implementing some revised protocols for both unvaccinated designated caregivers and general visitors. The definitions of these two categories are provided here:

Essential visitors

Essential visitors are persons visiting a home to meet an essential need-related to the operations of the home or residents that could not be adequately met if the person does not visit the home.

There are four types of essential visitors:

- i) people visiting very ill or palliative residents for compassionate reasons, hospice services, end-of-life care, etc.
- ii) government inspectors with a statutory right of entry. Government inspectors who have a statutory right to enter long-term care homes to carry out their duties must be granted access to a home at all times. Examples of government inspectors include inspectors under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007, the Health Protection and Promotion Act,

the Electricity Act, 1998, the Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

iii) support workers: support workers are persons who visit a home to provide support to the critical operations of the home or to provide essential services to residents.

Essential services provided by support workers include but are not limited to:

- assessment, diagnostic, intervention or rehabilitation and counselling services for residents by regulated health professionals such as physicians and nurse practitioners
- moving a resident in or out of a home
- social work services
- legal services
- post-mortem services
- emergency services (for example, such as those provided by first responders)
- maintenance services such as those required to ensure the structural integrity of the home and the functionality of the home's HVAC mechanical, electrical, plumbing systems and services related to exterior grounds and winter property maintenance
- food delivery
- Canada Post mail services and other courier services

iv) Designated Caregivers:

A caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is visiting the home to provide direct care to meet the essential needs of a particular resident. Caregivers must be at least 18 years of age and must be designated by the resident or his/her substitute decision-maker.

Direct care includes providing support or assistance to a resident that includes providing direct physical support (for example, eating, bathing and dressing) or providing social and emotional support.

Examples of direct care provided by caregivers include but are not limited to the following:

- supporting activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing and eating assistance
- assisting with mobility
- assisting with personal hygiene
- providing cognitive stimulation
- fostering successful communication
- providing meaningful connection and emotional support
- offering relational continuity assistance in decision-making

General visitors

A general visitor is a person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting to provide non-essential services related to either the operations of the home or a particular resident or group of residents.

There are two broad categories of general visitors:

i) visitors providing non-essential services which include but are not limited to:

- personal care service providers (for example, hairdressers, barbers, manicurists, etc.)
 - entertainers (singers, musicians, etc.)
 - recreational service providers
 - animal handlers (for example, as part of therapy animal program)
 - individuals who are touring the home to inform decisions regarding application for admission and
- ii) persons visiting for social reasons that the resident or their substitute decision-maker assess as different from “direct care” as described in the section on caregivers

As a reminder, anyone under the age of 18 is considered a general visitor.

In order to ensure that the best practices for infection prevention and control, with the existing fourth wave of Covid19, and increasing numbers of outbreaks in long term care across the province, St. Pat’s is implementing some changes to the visiting protocols based upon the vaccination status of the visitor starting on October 13, 2021.

The following chart outlines the requirements for vaccinated designated caregivers; unvaccinated designated caregivers; vaccinated general visitors and unvaccinated general visitors. The changes are highlighted in red. Please share these changes with others in your family and other people visiting St. Pat’s.

**St. Patrick’s Home of Ottawa
Overview of Indoor Visiting Requirements
As of Oct. 13, 2021**

Designated Care Givers – fully vaccinated Will be wearing Yellow Badge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get screened in • Randomized rapid testing will resume once per week for all vaccinated designated caregivers. Please wait for the results before proceeding to the resident room. • Wear your mask for the duration of your time here • Get your Yellow Badge • You are able to move freely around the building and outdoors maintaining social distancing from other residents and visitors. • You may have close contact with your loved one.
Designated Care Givers – not fully vaccinated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get screened in. • Don your mask and face shield or goggles. • Complete your rapid tested – you must be tested at each visit. • Wait in the lobby for the results of the rapid test. • Wear your mask and face shield or goggles for the duration of your time here • You will now require an escort to your loved one’s room. • Visiting can only occur in your loved one’s room. You must maintain a social distance of 6 feet.

- You are able to provide your essential caregiving duties in your loved one's room **You may not move around the building without an escort.**
- **When you are ready to leave the building please notify the staff using the call bell and they will provide an escort out of the building when they are available.**
- **If you loved one shares a room – Do not interact with the roommate and maintain 6 feet distance at all times.**

General Visitors – fully vaccinated

Will be wearing **Yellow Badges**

- Get screened in
- **Randomized rapid testing will resume once per week for all vaccinated General Visitors. Please wait for results before proceeding to the resident room.**
- Wear your mask for the duration of your time here
- Get your **Yellow Badge**
- You are able to move freely around the building and outdoors maintaining social distancing from other residents and visitors.
- You may have close contact with your loved one.

General Visitors – not fully vaccinated

- **General Visitors who are not vaccinated cannot go to the Resident Home Area.**
- **Appointments for visits are booked through Reception for designated time slots in a specific room for a maximum of one hour.**
- Get screened in
- Don your mask and **face shield or goggles**
- Everyone over 2 years of age must be swabbed and wait for results before the visit
- You are required to wear mask and **face shield or goggles** for the duration of your visit. **You must maintain 6 feet from the resident for the visit.**
- **You will be escorted to the designated indoor visiting area reserved for your assigned time. You will be escorted from the building at the end of the visit. Call extension x.**
- **The resident you are visiting will be brought to the room for the visit.**

There are significant changes as you will notice and are for the safety of all residents, staff and other visitors.

In summary the changes are:

- All unvaccinated designated caregivers and general visitors will be rapid tested at each visit and must wait until the results are received prior to the visit.
- All unvaccinated designated caregivers and general visitors will be escorted to the identified area for the visit and escorted out of the building once the visit is over. This is to support maintaining social distancing.
- Eye protection must be worn by unvaccinated designated caregivers and general visitors
- Unvaccinated designated caregivers may visit in the resident room only and cannot leave the room with the resident. This protects all of the other residents from any interaction.

St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa, 2865 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8N5 (613) 731-4660

- Unvaccinated general visitors will now have a designated space for these visits. These visits must be booked ahead of time through Reception for a maximum of one hour. The resident with whom the general visitor is visiting will be brought to the room by staff. There can only be a maximum of 2 general visitors at one time due to the need to maintain social distancing.

Rapid Testing

The province has now directed long term care homes to re-start rapid testing for vaccinated staff, visitors, volunteers and support workers. The requirement is at a minimum to complete once weekly rapid testing. Please plan in your week to get rapid testing at least once per week when you visit starting October 13th. If you would like to be tested more frequently please feel free to access testing more frequently. We would ask that if possible plan to have your rapid testing done Monday through Friday, rather than on the weekend. The rapid testing room will be open on Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm. with two closures for staff breaks from 12:15 to 1 pm. and 5:15 to 6 pm.

If you only visit on a weekend we can complete the rapid test, but the rapid testing area will not be fully staffed on the weekend and you may have to wait for someone to come to complete the rapid test.

All designated caregivers and general visitors who are not vaccinated must continue to be rapid tested at each visit.

The following is the new direction provided by the province:

Randomized testing of fully immunized individuals

In accordance with the recent update to the Minister's Directive (effective October 15th), to aid in the early detection of possible breakthrough cases of COVID-19, homes must undertake randomized testing of fully immunized individuals using rapid antigen tests. While licensees may select the randomized testing approach to be used, homes must do randomized testing on a weekly basis and cannot do the randomized testing on one static day each week. Licensees must also ensure that the results of the randomized testing are recorded and tracked for reporting, inspection and compliance purposes.

Outdoor Visits

All visitors must complete screening prior to any contact with a resident. General visitors who are not visiting indoors must also be screened prior to visiting outside. Masks are required at all time outdoors as well as indoors.

Please share this information with those who may be visiting your loved one but do not receive the updates.

Be well and stay safe,

Janet Morris
President and CEO