



December 17, 2021

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

Hello, we have no further positive cases on Waterford. At present there are 3 residents who are still considered active positive cases. We wish everyone a speedy recovery. As of today, the Waterford outbreak will end on December 28<sup>th</sup>, however, in discussion with Ottawa Public Health, residents will not have to remain in isolation until the 28<sup>th</sup>. If there are no further positive cases, residents who do not have any symptoms will be out of isolation on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Today we have received a positive PCR test result for a staff member who worked on Cavan. Residents who were in close contact will be in isolation with PCR testing to be completed on Monday December 20<sup>th</sup>. These results will then determine the next steps. Cavan is not considered in outbreak, as per the Ministry of LTC definition as there is only one staff case.

### **Rapid Testing**

We have had a few questions on the rapid testing process. Our goal is to staff the rapid testing room fully each day from 8 am to 8 pm., however this may not always be possible. Although it would be great to have someone in rapid testing every day including the weekends, our priority is to ensure that the staff are available to provide resident care. There will be rapid testing on the weekends, however, designated caregivers and general visitors may have to wait until someone is available who can do the rapid test. Thank you in advance for your patience, as we all know that the resident care takes priority.

Rapid testing will be closed from 12:30 to 1pm and from 5:30 to 6:00 pm so our dedicated staff can have a break. As each swab takes 15 minutes to process, the last swab will be done at 12:15 and 5:15pm.

Rapid testing is required for all vaccinated staff, designated caregivers and general visitors entering the home every 48 hours. Unvaccinated designated caregivers will be tested at each visit until December 19<sup>th</sup>. As of December 20<sup>th</sup> all designated caregivers must have had their first vaccination to be able to enter the home. Daily testing will continue until February 21<sup>st</sup> when designated caregivers must be fully vaccinated to enter a LTC Home.

### **Designated Caregivers and General Visitors**

As of today, only 2 people can visit a resident indoors at the same time. Residents who are in isolation can have one person visit at a time.

The ministry has provided a summary of the Enhanced Measures and it is available on our website: [https://stpats.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Summary\\_of\\_Enhanced\\_Measures\\_final.pdf](https://stpats.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Summary_of_Enhanced_Measures_final.pdf)

It is a difficult time for everyone right now and all of the changes will take some time to become our routine. Thank you for your patience as we work through these new protocols.

Be well and stay safe,

***Janet Morris***  
President and CEO