



December 29, 2021

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, we did not have any significant changes over the Christmas Holiday. We currently have 12 active staff cases and 3 visitor cases of COVID. Below is a summary of the COVID status on each home area:

GALWAY: COVID clear!

CAVAN: **Outbreak** with 3 active resident cases. The residents who were considered close contacts continue on isolation and will be retested today. The earliest date the outbreak will be over is January 4th.

CARLOW: **Outbreak** with 1 active resident case. The residents that were considered close contacts continue on isolation and were tested yesterday or will be tested today based on exposure date. The earliest date the outbreak will be over is January 5th.

DUBLIN: **Case Management** due to a staff positive case and a visitor case. The residents who were considered close contacts continue on isolation and will be retested on December 30th. The resident case that was reported on December 24th was a false positive and the suspect outbreak has been cleared.

DONEGAL: COVID clear!

KERRY: COVID clear!

KILKENNY: **Case Management** due to a staff positive case. All of the residents are on isolation and were retested yesterday. If all of these results are negative the residents will be removed from isolation.

WATERFORD: COVID clear! The outbreak was declared over by Ottawa Public Health today. We have one visitor case and that resident is on **Case Management**.

WEXFORD: **Case Management** due to a visitor and staff positive cases. The residents who were considered close contacts continue on isolation and will be retested this week based on exposure date.

We continue to isolate and swab any symptomatic residents as we usually do. When their swab comes back negative, they can come off isolation after being 48 hours symptom free of GI and 24 hours symptom free for respiratory.

As a reminder, residents on outbreak areas or on isolation are only permitted one designated caregiver to visit at a time.

Social Outings and General Visitors:

We received new guidance regarding resident social outings and General Visitors. Effective tomorrow, visits from all general visitors (excluding essential/ designated caregivers and those visiting a resident at end of life) will not be permitted. Daytime/social leaves of absences for residents are also being paused at this time. Essential medical leaves for residents are still permitted. These difficult decisions have been announced by our government as part of their continued effort to keep residents, team members and loved ones safe and to minimize risks associated by the Omicron Variant. A snapshot of the current provincial guidance for Visitors, Absences and Social Gatherings can be found on our website: <https://stpats.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LTC-Visitors-Absences-and-Social-Gatherings-Snapshot-2021.12.28.pdf>

Rapid Testing:

We have received our supply of rapid testing kits. The province has committed to securing rapid testing supplies for long-term care homes as a priority. Everyone is required to be tested every 48 hours (every second day) at this time. There may be a line-up or a wait time for staff to be available to complete the tests. Please be patient as our nurses' priorities are the residents.

Be well and stay safe,

Janet Morris
President and CEO