



December 31, 2021

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

Hello, we are happy to report that we have had no further positive resident cases. Effective today, positive rapid tests no longer require a confirmed PCR test and are considered positive cases. This includes the 5 rapid tests that were reported yesterday. There were also 3 new positive staff cases since yesterday's update. The current COVID status by home area is:

**CARLOW: Outbreak** is extended with 3 new staff cases. Residents who are considered close contacts with these staff members will be placed on isolation. As Carlow was already in outbreak, many of the affected residents were already isolated. The families of the residents that were newly isolated will be contacted directly. Some residents are awaiting negative test results and will be removed from isolation once these are received. The earliest date the outbreak will be over is January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**CAVAN: Outbreak** is extended with 2 new staff cases. Residents who are considered close contacts with these staff members will be placed on isolation. As Cavan was already in outbreak, many of the affected residents were already isolated. The families of the residents that were newly isolated will be contacted directly. Some residents are awaiting negative test results and will be removed from isolation once these are received. The earliest date the outbreak will be over is January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**DUBLIN:** Now in confirmed **outbreak** with 2 (one new) staff cases. Residents who are considered close contacts with these staff members will be placed on isolation. As Dublin was already on case management, many of the affected residents were already isolated. The families of the residents that were newly isolated will be contacted directly. Some residents are awaiting negative test results and will be removed from isolation once these are received. The earliest date the outbreak will be over is January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**KILKENNY:** Now in confirmed **outbreak** with 2 (one new) staff cases. Residents who are considered close contacts with these staff members will be placed on isolation. As Kilkenny was already on case management, many of the affected residents were already isolated. The families of the residents that were newly isolated will be contacted directly. Some residents are awaiting negative test results and will be removed from isolation once these are received. The earliest date the outbreak will be over is January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**WEXFORD:** Continues on **case management** until all resident PCR results are received. Residents will be taken off isolation as negative results are received.

Galway, Donegal, Kerry and Waterford all remain COVID free!

On every given day there are changes to the residents in isolation. The dates of isolation are based on the reason for isolation which ranges from a resident having symptoms and awaiting a test result, a close contact with a positive case or a resident who has Covid-19. The length of each isolation is also individual based upon dates of contact or when a test result is received. Test results are very delayed right now; however, we are hopeful that with the announced priority for long term care homes PCR testing we will see more timely results.

Yesterday, the province announced significant changes to public health measures in light of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, and further protections to high-risk settings, including long-term care. While there were many changes announced, the following are most relevant for St. Pat's and we will provide further information once we receive directives from the Ministry:

- Effective immediately the province will be making fourth doses of mRNA vaccines available to residents of long-term care homes if at least three months, or 84 days, have passed since their third dose. We will update as soon as we have more information from Public Health.
- Third doses will be mandatory for all staff, students, volunteers, caregivers and support workers by January 28, 2022 for those currently eligible for a booster. We will coordinate with Public Health to facilitate this for everyone at St. Pat's.
- Visitors will also be required to provide proof of a booster dose once the temporary pause on general visitors is lifted.
- There are also changes to testing and isolation requirements that will be clarified by the Ministry directives when we receive them. The 5-day shortened isolation period does not apply to long-term care home staff, students, volunteers, caregivers and support workers.

Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year,

***Janet Morris***  
President and CEO