



January 25, 2022

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

Hello, we have had no additional positive rapid tests for staff or designated caregivers that affect the residents since the update yesterday. We have had positive rapid test results however these people had not been in the building for a number of days prior to the rapid test and therefore are not considered close contact with any residents.

We received 2 new positive residents results, detected through surveillance testing, one on Wexford and one on Carlow.

Kilkenny is now off of isolation. One of the people who tested positive on a rapid test was negative on the PCR and therefore there is no close contact for the residents on Kilkenny.

Galway is now off of isolation as well as they are completed the 10 day isolation period. Dublin and Waterford are also clear and have no isolation precautions.

The other home areas have some residents on isolation with the timeline for these varying on home areas and with different residents. Surveillance testing on day 7 for the residents who were close contacts continues and as these results are received and the 10 day period is completed the residents are taken off of isolation.

### **Covid19 Booster/Third dose Vaccination**

The requirements for designated caregivers for the third dose or booster vaccinations are changing as the Ministry of LTC has a new immunization policy. The immunization directive states that designated caregivers who were eligible for a third dose on or before December 31, 2021 must receive their third dose by January 28, 2022, and caregivers who become eligible for a third dose on or after January 1, 2022 must receive their third dose by May 23, 2022 (unless a valid medical exemption is provided). If a caregiver becomes eligible after May 23rd, they should receive their third dose as soon as possible after becoming eligible. Eligibility is determined as 3 months after the second dose.

Where a caregiver has not received required doses by the deadlines, the visit should be restricted to the resident's room and every effort should be made to physically distance from other residents/individuals that are in the same room.

In order to track vaccination status, as you come in to visit we would like to see your vaccination certificate for your second dose or third dose. This will help us know who has the third booster and who has the two shots. We will only ask you to show this once and we will document the date of your

second or third shot. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this. Those who meet the new requirements and applicable deadlines will be provided with a yellow badge to let everyone know that they are able to be outside of the resident's room.

Staff members, volunteers, support workers and students also have the requirement to receive their third dose if eligible by January 28 in order to come into a long term care home. Staff, support workers, student placements, volunteers and caregivers who are not eligible for a third dose by the established deadlines can continue to enter a long-term. If they are not eligible as of January 1 for their third dose, then they must have their third dose by March 14, 2022.

Stay safe and be well,

***Janet Morris***

President and CEO