



February 4, 2022

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

Hello, on Wednesday evening a staff member who had worked on Wexford informed us that they had tested positive from a PCR test completed in the community. There are 4 residents who are close contacts from January 28 and they are now in isolation with their families informed.

We have had 2 other staff member who tested positive on a rapid test, however, there are no close contact for residents.

A resident on Waterford who had close contact with a positive resident last week, has a positive Covid19 result from their day 7 surveillance PCR test.

Carlow and Waterford residents who were close contacts to a positive case and have tested negative, are now off of isolation.

### **Changes to Ministry of Long Term Care Directives:**

Yesterday we received a Memo from the Ministry of LTC outlining new protocols. It was also identified that we will receive the full Directive on Friday, Feb. 4. Although we have not yet received the Directive the Memo outlines the following changes:

#### **On February 7, 2022:**

- Increasing the maximum number of designated caregivers per resident from 2 to 4 for those residents who had a limit on designated caregivers after December 15th. If a resident or POA would like to add 2 designated caregivers please complete the Designated Caregiver form available from the screeners. As a reminder, designated caregivers must have had at least one dose of a Covid19 vaccine to be able to come into a LTC Home and must be fully vaccinated by Feb. 21, 2022.
- Continue with limit of 2 visitors (currently only caregivers) at a time per resident. Unfortunately, during an outbreak, the limit is 1 designated caregiver visiting at a time. We are currently designated as a whole home outbreak so one designated caregiver can visit at a time at St. Pat's. Once we are out of outbreak we can return to 2 designated caregivers at a time.
- Resuming social day absences for residents who have had at least three COVID-19 vaccine doses, while supporting these residents with information about the benefits of limiting contact with others, including avoiding large social gatherings, following masking and physical distancing as much as possible, and only being in close contact with people who have had three COVID-19 vaccine doses.

**Targeting February 21, 2022 to:**

- Resume all general visitors 5 years and older who have had at least two COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- Children under 5 years of age would continue to be restricted from entering a long-term care home, except for infants 12 months or younger.
- Increase limits on the number of visitors (including caregivers) that may visit a resident at one time to 3.
- Expand social day absences to all residents regardless of vaccination status.
- Resume social overnight absences for residents who have had at least three COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- Social group activities should remain as small groups (i.e., up to 10).

**Targeting March 14, 2022 to:**

- Resume visits by general visitors under 5 years old. No vaccination requirement for those under the age of 5.
- Increase limit on the number of visitors (including caregivers) at a time per resident to 4.
- Allow social overnight absences for all residents regardless of vaccination status.

We are awaiting further detail on the new directives and will provide these in an update on Monday.

Have a great weekend and stay well,

***Janet Morris***  
President and CEO