



March 11, 2022

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello,

Donegal remains in outbreak although we have no positive cases of COVID in the home. We are awaiting a staff case to be resolved before the outbreak can be declared cleared.

The province announced a number of changes to COVID protocols on March 9, 2022. With the Omicron wave receding, steps are being taken to re-open Ontario, including easing measures in long-term care homes. The Ministry of Long-Term Care has been working closely with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on a risk-based approach in long-term care that balances measures that are still needed to reduce COVID-19 risk with the importance of overall resident health, wellbeing and quality of life. As of March 14th, the following changes will occur at St. Pat's:

- The Minister's Directive on Long-Term Care Home COVID-19 Immunization Policy will be revoked. The province is shifting from a provincial directive that requires homes to have a mandatory vaccination policy to a guidance-based approach that continues to support long-term care homes with their employer-led policies and best practice. St. Pat's will be maintaining its mandatory vaccine policy for everyone who enters the home. As of Monday March 14, 2022, everyone entering the home must have proof of a 3rd dose of a COVID vaccine.
- All general visitors can resume visits. General visitors, with the exception of children under the age of 5, will need to follow St. Pat's vaccination policy.
- The number of indoor visitors (including caregivers) per resident at a time increases from three to four.
- All residents may go on overnight temporary absences, regardless of vaccination status.
- Testing of residents returning from day or overnight absences at established intervals will continue until further notice to identify as early as possible any individual who may become infected with COVID-19 in order to reduce transmission in the home.
- Rapid testing requirements for staff and visitors is not changing at this time.
- Social group activities can be increased in size (more than 10); at St. Pat's these groups will still be limited by House Area.

We will be updating information on our website to reflect these changes on Monday.

IPAC measures should continue to be followed by staff, residents and visitors to promote safety and wellbeing.

As a reminder, St. Pat's Board of Directors and Leadership Team are currently in the process of strategic planning for the future. An important part of this planning is to engage staff, residents, families and other stakeholders. An invitation for families to join in facilitated sessions to provide their feedback regarding strategic priorities is available on our website:

<https://stpats.ca/family-strategic-planning-consultation-invitation/>

Be well and stay safe,

Janet Morris
President and CEO