



April 13, 2022

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

The outbreak on Carlow is over! There were no resident cases in this outbreak.

We are continuing to have positive rapid tests results for staff, designated caregivers and support staff resulting in residents having low risk contacts. The residents do not need to isolate following a low risk contact within St. Pat's. The resident will have a PCR test completed on day 5 following the contact with a positive case.

St. Patrick's Home maintains a vaccination requirement for entry of three Covid 19 vaccinations. The goal of this is to ensure that everyone in our home is protected with many layers of protection including vaccination, screening protocols, rapid testing, wearing masks, increased hand hygiene and cleaning of high touch surfaces. If a designated caregiver is not vaccinated, they cannot visit inside the home, however, there are other options available such as outdoor visits. As the weather improves, residents can go outside for visits. A vaccinated visitor can bring a resident outside for a visit with other people. We would ask that you keep the number of people visiting to a limit of 4 in line with the indoor visiting guidelines.

Attached is an outline from the Ministry of Long Term Care regarding visits and absences from long term care homes in Ontario. There are isolation precautions required when there is a close contact with someone who is Covid19 positive outside of St. Pat's as per the attached guidance. I hope that this is valuable information for everyone with the Easter weekend coming up.

Eligibility for a fourth dose of a Covid 19 vaccine has been expanded recently in Ontario to anyone over 60 years. We encourage you to get this fourth doses as soon as you are able. This expansion also included a change in the recommended interval between a third and fourth dose from 3 months to 5 months. We will proceed with the new guidance of 5 months for residents receiving their fourth dose, however there is some flexibility and it is possible to give the residents the fourth dose between 3 and 5 months. If a resident or substitute decision maker would like to have a fourth dose earlier than 5 months please contact Monique Patterson, VP, Nursing.

Happy Easter!

Stay well and be safe,

***Janet Morris***  
President and CEO



# COVID-19 Policies: What Residents Can Expect in a Long-Term Care Home

(As of April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 unless otherwise specified)



## All residents may\*...

- Enjoy the company of general visitors, consistent with the individual home's vaccination policy
- Have up to four visitors (including caregivers) at a time indoors, consistent with the individual home's vaccination policy.
- Enjoy outdoor visits, with the number of visitors based on the home's policy.
- Participate in group social activities, including games, clubs and exercises.
- Have meals in the dining room, including buffet and family-style meals.
- Leave the home for all types of absences, including social day and overnight absences.

\*Unless otherwise directed by the local public health unit or when isolating

## What temporary measures are in place to safeguard long-term care homes?

- All staff, students, volunteers, caregivers, support workers and general visitors must be screened and wear masks, whether inside or outside. Those visiting indoors must also be tested.
- Continued infection prevention and control measures will be followed, including distancing between groups and dining tables, masking, hand washing and enhanced cleaning.

## What if the home is in outbreak?

Residents can expect the following if the area of the home they live in is in outbreak\*:

- Group activities, dining and social gatherings may continue in non-outbreak areas if residents can follow public health measures.
- For outbreak areas of a home, residents will be cohorted in small groups for all essential activities. Group activities for cohorts may continue/resume if operationally feasible.
- Communal dining, non-essential activities and personal care services will be suspended or modified.
- Caregivers can still visit.

\*Unless otherwise directed by the local public health unit



# COVID-19 Safety Measures for Absences

(As of April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 unless otherwise specified)

## Whenever outside of the home, residents should do their best to:

- Wear a mask (as tolerated)
- Wash hands frequently
- Limit their contact with others. Avoid crowds and large social gatherings with crowding.

## What happens when I return home?

### When residents return from a day or overnight absence\* they will:

- Be actively screened
- Undergo a PCR test on day five following the absence
- Not need to quarantine unless they show symptoms upon return to the home.

Note: Residents who have been COVID-19 positive in the past 90 days may not be required to undergo testing and quarantine requirements when returning from an absence unless they have symptoms of COVID-19.

\*If returning from hospital, this assumes the hospital is not in outbreak, resident is not symptomatic and has not been exposed to COVID-19. If the hospital is in outbreak the PHU will advise on testing and quarantine requirements.

## What if I come into contact with someone with COVID-19?

Residents with up-to-date COVID-19 vaccines:

- Screened on arrival and quarantined until a negative result is obtained from the day five test

Residents who do not have up-to-date vaccines:

- Screened on arrival and quarantined for 10 days with a PCR test on day five.
- All residents are still permitted to see their caregivers while in quarantine