



October 12, 2022

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, hoping everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

We are currently in suspect COVID outbreak on Kerry and Dublin with one resident on each house area testing positive last week. There have been no further resident cases.

Changes to COVID Guidance

The Ministry has announced some updated COVID guidelines for LTC that will be effective October 14, 2022. The changes that will affect residents, families and visitors to St. Pat's are as follows:

- Residents returning from social absences will no longer be required to be tested, but will continue to be actively monitored for 5 days
- Rapid testing will continue from 8am to 8pm at the same frequency. There will be a change in screening hours as staff will no longer be required to actively screen. We will communicate this as soon as we have confirmed a new process.
- Caregivers and visitors will be able to unmask in a resident room **BUT ONLY WHEN THEY ARE ONE-TO-ONE**, if any one else enters the room they must put their mask back on. For shared rooms, the curtain must remain closed when unmasked. This does mean that you will be able to share a drink or food with your loved one in their room, as long as it is just the two of you.
- For the resident's who could only have 4 essential caregivers designated, this has also changed and there will be no limit to the number of essential caregivers they can designate.
- The definition of a close contact has changed. Residents that are tablemates or roommates of residents that test positive for COVID will no longer be required to isolate. There may be some clinical exceptions to this. The Ministry materials have roommates as close contacts, but due to the set up of our shared rooms, if the curtain is pulled, from an IPAC perspective, the roommate will not have to isolate.
- The definition of outbreak has also changed. An outbreak is now two positive residents that are linked in the past 10 days and the definition no longer includes staff cases.

Influenza Vaccines

We have started providing the Influenza vaccine to residents today and will continue until all are completed over the rest of this week and next week.

Be well and stay safe,

Janet Morris

President and CEO