



The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Social Services
Department

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Dear Family Member,

[Region of Durham Long-Term Care COVID-19 Update](#)

The evolving pandemic has led Ontario to tighten restrictions in several regions across the province. At this time, the Region of Durham has not been identified as one of the areas designated by the province for targeted measures due to increased community spread of the virus. However, case numbers continue to rise in our community, and we must take steps now to continue to protect residents in long-term care.

In compliance with the Ministry of Long-Term Care's COVID-19: Visiting Long-Term Care Homes policy, the Region has made the difficult decision to suspend all short stay and temporary absences in our four homes; Fairview Lodge, Hillsdale Estates, Hillsdale Terraces and Lakeview Manor. Only medical absences for outpatient appointments will be permitted. Residents will continue to have access to the entirety of their homes and outdoor property, however, residents may not leave the property itself.

Indoor and outdoor visits will continue at our homes as long as there is no COVID outbreak declared. However, in light of the changing season, outdoor visits will end effective Monday, November 2.

If there is a COVID outbreak, the home, in consultation with Public Health, will determine whether essential caregiver visits can continue during that time and if so, what additional restrictions will be put in place. All visitors and essential caregivers are expected to comply with Public Health direction with respect to COVID testing, wearing a mask, visiting with only the scheduled resident, and maintaining social distancing from other residents and staff. Those who do not will be asked to leave the building and may be suspended from future visits. Please continue to connect with your home to arrange your visits and to refer to www.durham.ca/lcupdates for the latest information on visits.

These decisions are difficult but essential to keeping residents, staff, and family safe from COVID-19. Your cooperation continues to be our best defense in preventing the type of outbreaks that have proven so devastating across long-term care. We will continue to revisit these restrictions as the situation evolves.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to support our residents.

Laura MacDermaid