



**The Regional
Municipality
of Durham**

Social Services
Department

Laura MacDermaid
Director
Long-Term Care &
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Division

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Dear Family Member,

As of October 14, 2022, Long-Term Care homes will be making some changes as outlined in the Ministry of Long-Term Care COVID-19 guidance document. These changes aim to balance the need to keep residents safe, while ensuring isolation and other public health guidance are suitable for this point in the pandemic, where there is a high degree of community immunity and availability of vaccine boosters. Further details on these changes are outlined below.

Covid-19 Screening

Active screening and daily rapid antigen testing will continue for visitors and caregivers. Daily screening of residents is to be continued to monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Masking Requirements

Masking remains a requirement for long-term care staff, as well as for visitors and others entering long-term care homes. Recognizing that long-term care residents miss seeing the faces of their loved ones, caregivers and visitors are not required to wear masks when they are alone with a resident in their room although masks are still strongly recommended. When not alone with a resident in their room or a designated space within the home, visitors and caregivers are still required to be masked.

Visitors

The Region of Durham will continue with a limit of 4 visitors (including caregivers) per resident at a time for indoor visits.

Physical Distancing

Residents, staff, and visitors are encouraged to continue to practice physical distancing and urged to avoid situations like crowded places in which COVID-19 may spread more easily.

Residents

Active screening of residents upon return from an absence will continue. Upon guidance from the MLTC with consultation from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, requirements for testing or isolation

of residents after an absence will be removed unless they are symptomatic or have tested positive for COVID-19. Please note that residents who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19 are no longer required to isolate, unless they have symptoms, or they are a roommate of the person with COVID-19. Testing of asymptomatic residents being admitted or transferred from the community or a facility that is not in outbreak is no longer recommended.

Note that every situation is unique and as always, the homes will continue to work closely with Public Health to complete risk assessments to plan accordingly and implement interventions as deemed necessary as we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our residents, staff and all others who attend our homes.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support and if you have any questions or concerns about anything in this letter or otherwise, please contact the home or me.

Laura MacDermaid