



August 3, 2021

Dear Family Member,

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

Our homes continue to follow all directives issued by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and guidance from the Health Department.

Vaccinations

If you have not yet been vaccinated, please consider doing so as vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting COVID-19. Your first dose vaccine clinic appointment can be booked directly through the applicable online portal or the call-in line. For Durham Region clinics, the portal link is www.durham.ca/vaccineappointment and the call-in number is 1-888-444- 5113.

Surveillance Testing Reminder

On July 16, 2021, individuals who are fully immunized are no longer subject to surveillance testing requirements when attending a long-term care home. If an individual chooses not to disclose their vaccination status, then the testing requirements remain as set out in the Minister's Directive noted in the next bullet point. Proof of vaccination status must be provided to the home.

Partially or unimmunized individuals remain subject to testing protocols, which means two Rapid Antigen tests per week on non-consecutive days.

Changes to Outdoor and Virtual Visits

With the changes to the guidelines around visiting, the LTC homes need to return to offering group programs and activities and return to pre-COVID-19 routines. As such, we have made the decision to discontinue scheduling outdoor visits and Skype/Zoom calls for families and friends given that they are able to have in-person visits. All visitors are able to enter the home, pass active screening, go to resident's room for a visit, or to take the resident outdoors for a visit. Feel free to bring in your own device to assist your loved one in a virtual visit with family and friends who are unable to get to the home in person.

**The Regional
Municipality
of Durham**

Social Services
Department

Laura MacDermaid
Director
Long-Term Care &
Services for Seniors
Division

605 ROSSLAND RD. E.
PO BOX 623
WHITBY, ON L1N 6A3
CANADA

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102

www.durham.ca

Absences

All residents, regardless of immunization status, continue to be able to go on short-term essential, social, and temporary leaves (please note that temporary leaves require prior approval from the home). Any type of absence is contingent on the resident not being in isolation and/or the home not being in outbreak. Residents who leave the home for an overnight absence (including temporary absences) are required to follow the isolation and testing requirements.

If you have any questions about anything in this update, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or to a member of the management team at the LTC home.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to a continued return to normal in the months ahead.

Laura MacDermaid