



December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Family Member,

### [Updates to LTC Screening & Surveillance Testing Directive](#)

**The Regional  
Municipality  
of Durham**

Social Services  
Department

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On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Ministry of Health announced updates to the COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes that are effective immediately.

Based on the advice of the CMOH, individuals who have travelled outside of Canada (including the US) and countries covered by the federal government quarantine within the last 14 days must undergo rapid antigen testing prior to entering a long-term care home, **regardless of their vaccination status**. This test is valid for 48 hours.

The Ministry has also advised that **anyone who is required to quarantine by the Government of Canada, is not permitted to enter a long-term care home until released from quarantine**. This requirement also applies to individuals in the same household as the person required to quarantine.

Under the direction of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), anyone who has been in the following countries within 14 days prior to arrival in Canada: Botswana, Egypt, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe **must immediately have a PCR test for COVID-19 and quarantine for 14 days** from the date of their arrival, regardless of their vaccination status. They must also be tested again on **day 8** of their quarantine.

As was previously communicated, anyone visiting the home who is unvaccinated is required to undergo a rapid antigen test **each day** they visit the home. Anyone undergoing a rapid antigen test must wait in the clinic area until a negative result is confirmed.

We will continue to provide updates as we receive announcements from the Ministry of Health and/or the Public Health.

If you have any questions about anything in this update, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or to a member of the management team at the long-term care home.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

*Laura MacDermaid*