



January 4th, 2021

Dear Family Member,

Region of Durham Long-Term Care COVID-19 Update

**The Regional
Municipality
of Durham**

Social Services
Department

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The province wide lockdown to help stop the spread of COVID-19 continues until January 23rd in southern Ontario.

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, all Ontarians are advised to stay home as much as possible, with trips outside the home limited to necessities such as food, medication, medical appointments, or supporting vulnerable community members.

As of today, all four of our long-term care (LTC) homes are experiencing small COVID-19 outbreaks. The outbreaks are under control and we continue to work closely with Public Health in managing all suspected and confirmed positive cases.

Vaccination

The rollout of the Pfizer vaccine has been extended to all LTC staff and registered essential caregivers. If you are an essential caregiver, I encourage you to complete the online Pfizer vaccine registration form. Once completed, Lakeridge Health Oshawa (LHO) will be in contact with you to arrange an appointment. If you have any questions about the vaccine or how to sign up, please ask a member of the management team.

Note that all infection prevention and control policies and protocols remain in place with or without the vaccine.

Many of you have been asking about vaccinations for residents. On December 23rd, 2020, Health Canada approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Similar to the Pfizer vaccine, Moderna is a two-dose vaccine. Ontario received approximately 53,000 doses in December with a second shipment expected in the middle of January. This vaccine does not need to be stored at extremely cold temperatures and can be transported more easily. Moderna vaccine is being distributed directly to priority groups including LTC homes across the province. It is expected to arrive in the Durham Region sometime within the next two weeks. This week, we hope to have information and consent forms ready to distribute to residents or substitute decision makers in preparation for vaccine clinics in our four LTC homes.

Summary

There is growing optimism in the fight against COVID-19 as the vaccines continue to arrive in Ontario. Approvals and distribution have been discussed with increasing frequency among the levels of government. We must continue to ensure the safety of all residents, staff and visitors while those elements take shape. The pandemic is not over despite the grounds

for growing optimism that the vaccine brings with it. We still have many months in front of us, but we will get through this.

I wish everyone a healthy and safe New Year.

Laura MacDermaid