



July 15, 2021

Dear Family Member,

Region of Durham Long-Term Care COVID-19 Update

I am very pleased to share with you the news of further plans to reopen our homes, in accordance with the announcements made today by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Long-term Care. Changes to the Minister's Directive are being planned for July 16, 2021 that align with the province's **Roadmap to Reopen**. The following is a summary of the changes that affect our residents, families, and staff in long-term care:

Surveillance testing:

- As of July 16, 2021, individuals who are fully immunized will no longer be 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.

Activities/dining:

- Permitting a maximum of four visitors to meet with a resident indoors.
- Permitting buffet and family style dining.
- Fully immunized visitors may accompany fully immunized residents for meals, where space permits.
- Allowing activities, such as karaoke, singing, and dancing.
- Permitting all residents to go on day and overnight absences, regardless of immunization status.
- Enabling the resumption of off-site group excursions for residents.

Absences:

- All residents, regardless of immunization status, are now able to go on short-term essential, social, and temporary leaves (please note that temporary leaves require prior approval from the home).

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- All residents, regardless of immunization status, are permitted to go on off-site group excursions.
- 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.

Directive #3 updates:

- Changing daily symptom screening of residents to once daily.
- Eye protection for staff and essential visitors has changed to being required when providing care within two metres of a resident who is on Droplet/Contact Precautions and/or directly in an outbreak setting. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of eye protection, please speak with a staff member. Notwithstanding this change, if you wish to wear eye protection, please request it upon arrival.

This is very exciting news for our residents, staff and families as we continue to recover from this pandemic. We are working diligently to put these new directives in place, and we ask for your continued support and patience as we do so. The administrators and I will continue to keep you informed of our progress in reopening the homes.

If you have any other questions, 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