



July 2, 2021

Dear Family Member,

Region of Durham Long-Term Care COVID-19 Update

I hope you and your family had the opportunity to enjoy Canada Day and that you took time to reflect on the legacy of Canada's residential school system and what more we can do both as individuals and as a country to help build a better, more inclusive community and country.

On June 29, the Minister of Long-Term Care announced further easing of restrictions for LTC homes across the province. These changes will take effect on **July 7**.

The limit of two designated essential caregivers per resident is removed. The process to designate persons as essential caregivers remains in place and the home will be in touch with you about those details.

For outdoor visits with a resident, up to 10 people at a time will be permitted. All outdoor visitors undergo active screening upon arrival at the home. Where either the resident or general visitors are not fully immunized, the general visitor must maintain two metres physical distance from the resident. Where the resident and general visitor are both fully immunized, close physical contact is permitted. Brief hugs are permitted regardless of immunization status. Outdoor visitors are required to bring their own mask, which must be worn while visiting regardless of immunization status.

Indoor visits will also be permitted, with a limit of two general visitors and two designated essential caregivers (EC) visiting at one time. All general visitors must be actively screened and a Rapid Antigen test completed each time they visit, with negative screening confirmed prior to going beyond entry point. If the general visitor is fully immunized, they do not have to wear eye protection, but a mask is required. If the general visitor is not fully immunized, a face shield and mask are required. There are no changes to the surveillance testing or visiting protocols for ECs other than the increase to two ECs visiting at one time.

Personal care services, such as those provided by hairdressers/barbers, are permitted. We will be starting with haircuts prior to moving to full salon services.

Vaccinations

If you are an essential caregiver or a general visitor and have not yet been vaccinated, please consider doing so, as vaccination is the best

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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 durham.ca/vaccineappointment and the call-in number is 1-888-444- 5113. Visit durham.ca/CovidVaccines for the latest information on current priority groups eligible to receive a vaccine in Durham Region.

Surveillance Testing

Thank you for following the surveillance testing in place in each home. These protocols are developed in accordance with ministry direction and will continue to ensure effective screening in each home. The home will continue to notify you if/when the protocols change according to ministry directives or change in outbreak status as soon as possible. The clinic staff in each home are available to provide you with information and direction on what is required as well. We appreciate your cooperation in meeting these mandated requirements.

Summary

At the press conference on June 29, Minister Phillips indicated that there will be a further loosening of restrictions for our LTC homes when the province enters Step 3 of the broader reopening plan. We will keep you informed of any changes to directives or protocols as quickly as we can.

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