



The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Social Services
Department

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Dear Family Member,

Region of Durham Long-Term Care COVID-19 Update

The Region of Durham remains in the Red-Control zone of the province's COVID-19 Response Framework.

In terms of our long-term care (LTC) homes, there are no changes to visitor policies and registered essential caregiver visits continue to be limited to one person per visit. It is not until we are in the Yellow-Protect zone, that restrictions on visiting will change.

As of today, Hillsdale Estates is experiencing a small COVID-19 outbreak currently affecting 2 Resident Home Areas. A Variant of Concern has been isolated and the outbreak is under control. We continue to work closely with Public Health in managing all suspected and confirmed positive cases and at this time, there are no residents affected.

Surveillance Testing

As of March 15, 2021, all four LTC homes have transitioned to Rapid Antigen (RA) testing up to 3 times a week on nonconsecutive days for all essential caregivers. As previously shared, the RA test must be completed, and a negative result obtained before you are able to visit your loved one. We are no longer able to accept a weekly PCR test from essential caregivers. Please note that when a home is in outbreak, surveillance and testing requirements may change as per public health direction and you will be notified accordingly.

Vaccinations

Effective today, Lakeridge Health is asking registered essential caregivers to book their first dose vaccine clinic appointment directly through the applicable online portal or the call-in line. There are two clinics to choose from. For Oshawa, the portal link is covidvaccine.lh.ca and the call-in number is (905) 721-4828. For Scugog, Brock, Uxbridge, Pickering, Ajax, and Bowmanville, the portal link is www.durham.ca/vaccineappointment and the call-in number is 1-888-444-5113.

In order to be eligible for the vaccine, you must show proof of being a registered essential caregiver to an LTC resident in Durham. The acceptable proof is a letter from the home confirming that you are a registered EC. Please contact front reception at the home to obtain the confirmation letter which you are required to take to your vaccination appointment.

If you have already registered for the vaccine through the home's link, your information has been forwarded to the Lakeridge Health clinic and they will be in touch with you regarding your appointment.

If you have not yet registered for the vaccine, please consider doing so as the vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting COVID-19. Lakeridge Health has created a number of informative videos about COVID-19 vaccinations. The link to access these videos is <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2jY9UzvBjU2ED-DId9K-90WdDSOrQX-A>.

Registered Essential Caregivers (EC) Visiting

With the warmer weather upon us, we would like to remind ECs that restrictions surrounding indoor visits also apply outdoors. Should you wish to go outside, the visit can only include the resident and one EC. Please ensure social distance from other residents, ECs and staff. Visits must take place on the home's property.

We also want to remind you that a maximum of 2 EC may be designated per resident at a time. The designation should be made in writing to the home. A resident and/or their substitute decision-maker may change a designation for the following two reasons, (1) in response to a change in the resident's care needs that is reflected in the plan of care or (2) availability of a designated caregiver, either temporary (for example, illness) or permanent. This change must be provided in writing to the Home.

Summary

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me or to a member of the management team at the LTC home. I reiterate my thanks for your continued commitment to do everything we can to keep our most vulnerable safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For all who observe Easter or Passover, I wish you a wonderful weekend of safe celebration.

Laura MacDermaid