



The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Social Services
Department

Laura MacDermaid
Director
Long-Term Care &
Services for Seniors
Division

605 ROSSLAND RD. E.
PO BOX 623
WHITBY, ON L1N 6A3
CANADA

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102

www.durham.ca

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Dear Family Member,

Region of Durham Long-Term Care COVID-19 Update

Our homes continue to follow all directives issued by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and guidance from the Health Department. Essential caregivers are the only visitors permitted to visit LTC homes with a maximum of one caregiver visiting at a time. Exceptions remain for end-of-life or critical illness.

LTC Commission

On March 30th, Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission released its final report. You can read the full 322-page report [here](#). Seniors living in long-term care homes need to feel safe and well cared for, and their families need to trust that their loved ones are protected and receiving the best possible care. It will take some time to fully review the report details, but overall, it provides important insights into the tragedy that transpired in long-term care, and what needs to occur to ensure this never happens again.

Directive #3

The MLTC issued an update to Directive #3 that provides guidance regarding how homes can begin to safely resume certain activities and loosen restrictions. Beginning today, Essential Caregivers will be screened upon entry, but not upon exiting the building. We will no longer be taking and recording temperatures. In addition, residents who are fully immunized and their caregivers who are fully immunized may choose to have close physical contact beyond what is required for care and supervision (such as hugging or holding hands).

To be considered fully vaccinated, you must have received the total required number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by Health Canada and have received your final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago. To enact this new element of the directive, you will need to provide proof of your full vaccination status. The home will be sending out further details on this subject.

Absences

All residents can be absent for essential outings like exercise, medical appointments or for compassionate reasons regardless of vaccination status.

While social outings are not currently permitted under the province-wide stay at home order, further direction will be provided including allowances for fully vaccinated individuals to participate in such outings once the stay-at-home order is lifted.

Vaccinations

If you are an essential caregiver and 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. Please book your first dose vaccine clinic appointment directly through the applicable online portal or the call-in line. For Durham Region clinics, the portal link is www.durham.ca/vaccineappointment and the call-in number is 1-888-444-5113.

Visit <https://www.durham.ca/CovidVaccines> for the latest information on current priority groups eligible to receive a vaccine in Durham Region.

Staff Appreciation

We are hosting our Staff Appreciation Week this week, May 10-14. During this week we will be celebrating all staff who work hard every day to ensure the best quality of life to those entrusted to our care in an increasingly challenging environment. Please show your support for our teams when you are visiting or calling.

Summary

We are still in the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, where variants of concern underscore the need for continued vigilance. If you have any questions about any policies or procedures in the home, don't hesitate to reach out to me or to a member of the management team at the LTC home.

Laura MacDermaid