



November 22, 2021

Dear Family Member,

[Region of Durham Long-Term Care COVID-19 Update](#)

[LTC Homes COVID-19 Status](#)

There are no active COVID-19 cases in any of our homes and all homes continue to follow the directive issued by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and guidance from Public Health.

[Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](#)

In accordance with the Provincial directive, all LTC staff, volunteers, students and support workers were required to have received at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination by November 15th or they would not be permitted to enter the LTC home for the purpose of work. Across the Division, we have a small number of staff who have been placed on an administrative leave as a result. By December 13th, all staff, volunteers, students and support workers must have received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. We are monitoring this very closely and at this time, over 95% of active staff have been fully vaccinated.

[3rd Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

A 3rd dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is now being offered to additional groups of high-risk individuals if at least 6 months have passed since their last dose. This booster dose is recommended for these groups to provide an extra layer of protection against COVID-19 and is currently available to seniors living in LTC and certain congregate settings.

The following eligible populations include:

- Individuals aged 70 and over (born in 1951 or earlier)
- Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers)
- Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine)
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members

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If this applies to you, please consider booking your 3rd dose appointment through Durham's COVID-19 vaccination portal <https://www.durhamvaccinebooking.ca/> or by phoning 1-888-444-5113, through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics, select pharmacies, or through your primary care physician. If you have any questions about where to obtain the vaccination or any other questions regarding vaccines, please go to www.durham.ca/vaccines.

[Rapid Antigen Testing](#)

The Homes continue to randomize rapid antigen testing of fully vaccinated staff, caregivers, students, volunteers and general visitors. This Ministry directive is to aid in the detection of breakthrough COVID-19 cases in individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are selected to be tested, please go directly to the surveillance clinic for your test. Rapid antigen testing for anyone who is not fully vaccinated must be completed daily prior to the start of the visit.

[Holiday Gatherings](#)

I want to remind families and other visitors of the visitor restrictions still in place at the homes. There is a limit of 4 visitors at one time visiting a resident in a resident's room. This is because it is essential that everyone be able to socially distance. One fully vaccinated essential caregiver may assist a resident in the dining room. We will not be providing meal tickets for holiday meals again this year. There may be limited opportunities to permit small family gatherings in common areas within the LTC home. Please contact the Coordinator of Recreation and Therapy at the home to discuss plans and restrictions.

[Fight the Flu Campaign](#)

Visitors to the Homes are also strongly encouraged to get your annual influenza vaccination at your local pharmacy.

Please continue to be vigilant both when visiting in the home and at all other times, ensuring you wash your hands frequently, wear a mask and socially distance as much as possible.

If you have any questions about anything in this update, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or to a member of the management team at the long-term care home.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Laura MacDermaid