



November 8, 2021

Dear Family Member,

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

Canadians recognize Remembrance Day on November 11. It marks the end of hostilities during the First World War and an opportunity to recall all those who have served in the nation's defence. Each of our homes will be hosting a Remembrance Day Ceremony this week and we will pause for two minutes of silence at 11 a.m.

[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.

[Visiting Pets](#)

We are happy to announce that we will be welcoming visiting pets back into our homes beginning today. Prior to bringing your pet into the home, you will be required to register/re-register your pet with the Coordinator of Recreation Therapy. The home requires a copy of the visiting pet's vaccination record, dated within the last year, indicating the animal is in good health and has received its required vaccinations, including the rabies vaccine. As part of the registration process, you will be required to provide this information to the home on an annual basis.

Please note there are new requirements included in the registration process: you will be asked if your pet has consumed a raw diet in the last 90 days (risk of transmission of Salmonella) and we need to know that the pet has been in your care for more than six months.

We are excited to see our furry friends once again, and if you have any questions, please direct them to the Coordinator of Recreation and Therapy in the home.

[COVID Booster Shots](#)

Beginning November 6, 2021, boosters will be made available to additional groups of high-risk individuals if at least six 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 long-term care and certain congregate settings.

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Based on the recommendations made by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), 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 homes 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

Starting on November 6, eligible groups will be able to book their booster dose appointment through Durham's COVID-19 vaccination portal [DurhamVaccineBooking.ca](https://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 durham.ca/COVIDVaccines.

[Randomized 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.

[Fight the Flu Campaign](#)

The homes continue to ensure all residents who have consented to receive their annual influenza vaccination are receiving their vaccination. 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