



October 25, 2021

Dear Family Member,

Region of Durham Long-Term Care COVID-19 Update

**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

On Friday, October 22nd, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has released [*A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term*](#), which outlines the province's gradual approach to lifting remaining public health and workplace safety measures by March 2022. The plan will be guided by the ongoing assessment of key public health and health care indicators, and supported by local or regional tailored responses to COVID-19. At this time, there are no changes to the Ministry directives for Long-Term Care, but we will continue to keep you posted if there are any updates to share.

LTC Homes COVID-19 Status

Fairview Lodge is currently in outbreak on one of the Resident Home Areas (RHAs) with one COVID-19 positive resident. The outbreak is stable. There are no other 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.

Randomized Rapid Antigen Testing

Effective October 15th, the homes started randomized 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 Annual Influenza Vaccination Program has begun and all residents who have consented to be vaccinated are currently being vaccinated in the homes.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has determined that COVID-19 vaccines may be administered concomitantly with, or at any time before or after non-COVID-19 vaccines. This means that going forward, COVID-19 vaccine can be co-administered with other vaccines, including the flu vaccine, with informed consent.

The influenza vaccination will be very important this fall with the potential co-circulation of COVID-19 illness, to protect personal health as well as mitigate impacts on our healthcare system.

As the colder weather approaches and people move indoors, there is a possibility of higher COVID-19 transmission. 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