



February 14th, 2022

Dear Family Member,

[LTC Homes COVID-19 Status](#)

We are happy to see the decline in community cases and for our homes to be coming out of outbreak and isolation status. For up-to-date information on the status of your home, please check the website at www.durham.ca/ltcupdates and if you have any specific questions, do not hesitate to contact the home.

[Vaccination Requirements for Registered Essential Caregivers](#)

All essential caregivers are reminded that 2nd dose vaccinations are required by February 21, 2022. If you do not have your 2nd dose and do not provide proof of a medical exemption by presenting a valid QR code, you will not be permitted to enter the home.

As well, 3rd dose for those who are eligible is required by March 14th, 2022. Those eligible for a 3rd dose on or after March 14th, 2022 must provide proof within 30 days of being eligible or within 30 days following the recommended interval for those infected with COVID-19. If you have any questions about your eligibility date for 3rd dose, please contact the home or go to <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-vaccines.aspx>

Caregivers who are currently registered and have not provided proof of a 3rd vaccination dose by the set deadline, will be removed as an essential caregiver. They may however continue to enter as a general visitor when general visitors are permitted, provided they are fully vaccinated with two doses of mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 or have a valid medical exemption. Caregivers will need to re-register as an essential caregiver if they choose to meet the requirements of registered essential caregiver in place at the time.

[Provision of 4th Doses to Long Term Care Home Residents](#)

All eligible residents living in the Region of Durham LTC homes who have provided informed consent to receive the 4th dose have now been provided with the 4th dose. Those residents who are not yet eligible or who change their minds later will be provided with the 4th dose in their home. Their 4th dose can be administered at a minimum of 3 months following their third dose.

**The Regional
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Easing of Restrictions in Long Term Care

Last week, the easing of some restrictions in long term care took effect, with the increase of essential caregivers from 2 to 4, and the resumption of social day absences for residents with at least three COVID19 doses.

Further changes are scheduled for February 21st with the following changes:

- Resume all general visitors 5 years and older who have had at least two COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- Children under 5 years of age would continue to be restricted from entering a long-term care home, except for infants 12 months or younger.
- Increase limits on the number of visitors (including caregivers) that may visit a resident at one time to 3.
- Expand social day absences to all residents regardless of vaccination status.
- Resume social overnight absences for residents who have had at least three COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Note that active screening and proof of a negative Rapid Antigen test, taken the day of the visit, is still required unless you show proof of a confirmed COVID-19 infection in the past 30 days.

Outbreak Management

On February 3rd, the Ministry of Health released updated guidance to Public Health Units regarding the management of outbreaks in the LTC homes. The new guidance includes a distinction between a high-risk contact and a lower-risk contact. It also takes into consideration the vaccination status of the resident and whether the resident is symptomatic or not when determining whether they are required to isolate. Please note that our homes are required to follow the direction of our Public Health Unit regarding case and contact management, but this is good news for our residents.

There are signs that the Omicron wave is slowing, and that Ontario is moving in the right direction. Thank you for your continued vigilance.

To those of you who celebrate, I wish you a Happy Valentine's Day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, or to a member of the management team at the long-term care home.

Laura MacDermaid