



October 12th, 2021

Dear Family Member,

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

**The Regional
Municipality
of Durham**

Social Services
Department

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I hope you had a lovely Thanksgiving and had the opportunity to gather safely with family and friends. As the colder weather approaches and people move indoors, there is an expectation 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.

LTC Homes COVID-19 Status

The outbreak at Hillsdale Estates was declared over on September 29th. Currently none of our LTC homes are in outbreak status. Our homes continue to follow all directives issued by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) and guidance from the Health Department.

Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for staff, support workers, volunteers and students

On Friday, October 1st, the Province announced that COVID-19 vaccinations are mandatory for all staff, support workers, students and volunteers. The directive issued by the province supersedes the Region of Durham policy.

All current staff, support workers, volunteers and students will be required to provide confirmation of having received the full series of COVID-19 vaccinations or have a valid medical exemption no later than November 15, 2021. All new staff, support workers, volunteers and students will be required to provide proof of full vaccination as a condition of hire/placement effective October 1st.

Visitors are not included in this provincial directive. However, if you have yet to receive a first or second vaccination, please consider doing so. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Your vaccine clinic appointment can be booked directly through the applicable online portal or the call-in line. For Durham Region clinics, please visit durham.ca/VaccineAppointment or call 1-888-444- 5113.

Randomized Rapid Antigen Testing

Effective October 15th, the homes will begin 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.

Conduct of Visitors

I am disappointed to share that some individuals coming to the home to visit are being very disrespectful to our screeners and surveillance clinic staff. I want to remind you that these staff have a very important role to play in keeping your loved one safe. They need to ensure everyone entering the home is actively screened and to verify vaccination status to determine whether or not a rapid antigen testing is required or not. I want to remind everyone of the expectation to be respectful to the screeners and clinic staff, and to answer questions honestly. Failure to do so may result in your removal from the home.

Fight the Flu Campaign

As mentioned in my previous letter, the homes will be coordinating Influenza vaccinations for residents who have consented. If there are any changes to consent, please contact the RN before October 15th so that necessary changes can be made.

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