



September 13, 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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Hillsdale Estates COVID-19 outbreak

This has been a difficult time for the residents, families, and staff at Hillsdale Estates, where we have been fighting a COVID-19 outbreak since August 26.

Despite a high vaccination rate, we have had a total of 21 confirmed cases among residents and 11 confirmed cases among staff. As of September 13, we have 5 active resident cases and 5 active staff cases.

We are very saddened to share that four residents, who were COVID-19 positive, have passed away. We extend our deepest sympathies to their friends and families during this difficult time.

The outbreak was contained to two Resident Home Areas (RHAs). As of Friday, all active cases are now cohorted to one RHA. We continue to work closely with the Durham Region Health Department and will continue to keep families informed.

Third dose vaccinations

The homes are in the process of setting up clinics, within their homes, to administer the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. We are in process of obtaining consents from residents/substitute decision-makers. Residents will be receiving the same vaccination they received for the first and second doses. The dates for the clinics are:

Fairview Lodge – September 15
Hillsdale Estates – September 15
Hillsdale Terraces – September 17
Lakeview Manor – September 20 (tentative)

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.

Federal election

The federal election is September 20. Elections Canada has been working with each home to co-ordinate a safe plan for residents to exercise their right to vote. All Elections Canada volunteers entering the home will be actively screened; following the same surveillance testing requirements as staff and visitors; and required to follow all infection control practices (including wearing a mask and social distancing).

Changes to surveillance testing reminder

Effective September 1, anyone entering the home who is unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or chooses not to disclose their vaccination status, will be required to get a Rapid Antigen test—upon entry to the home—**each day** you visit. We are increasing the testing frequency, due to the rising cases in the community; and to add an extra layer of protection for residents. Proof of vaccination status must be provided to the home. Please note that there is currently a different testing schedule for staff and essential caregivers at Hillsdale Estates, due to the outbreak.

Mandatory vaccination policy

There has been attention to whether a mandatory vaccination policy should be implemented in long-term care homes. To date, the Ministry of Long-Term Care made it mandatory for homes to have a COVID-19 immunization policy. The Regional homes have fully met this requirement and have exceeded the testing requirement for non-vaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals.

The Region is currently taking great care and diligence in developing a COVID-19 vaccination policy, in consultation with its municipal counterparts and other stakeholders (internal and external). Any changes to our current immunization policy will be shared, once available.

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 as we move through this fourth wave.

Laura MacDermaid