



February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Family Member,

I would like to open this letter by acknowledging the current situation in Ukraine and the unimaginable devastation and loss due to the Russian attack. To all of you who are part of the local Ukrainian community, our hearts are with you and your loved ones during this time.

### [LTC Homes COVID-19 Status](#)

As of today, all four of our long-term care homes are free from an outbreak. For up-to-date information on the status of your home, please check the website at [www.durham.ca/ltcupdates](http://www.durham.ca/ltcupdates) and if you have any specific questions, do not hesitate to contact the home.

### [Booster Requirements for Registered Essential Caregivers](#)

The March 14<sup>th</sup> deadline for all eligible registered essential caregivers to have their 3<sup>rd</sup> dose (booster) vaccination for COVID-19 is soon approaching.

Some registered essential caregivers may not yet be eligible to receive their booster by March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, due to the date of their second vaccination or a recent covid infection. Please ensure you advise our screening team, and your individual eligibility date will be recorded. These caregivers must then provide proof of their vaccination 30 days post their eligibility date.

If you have any questions about your eligibility date for 3<sup>rd</sup> dose, please contact the home or go to <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-vaccines.aspx>

Essential caregivers who have not provided proof of a 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccination dose, or advised of their ineligibility by the set deadline, will no longer be registered as an essential caregiver. They may however continue to enter as a general visitor if they are deemed fully vaccinated but not boosted.

### [Maximum Number of Visitors](#)

A maximum of 3 visitors including caregivers may visit a resident at one time. If the home is experiencing an outbreak, or the resident is in isolation, this may change based on the direction of Public Health.

**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

905-666-6239  
1-888-721-0622

[www.durham.ca](http://www.durham.ca)

### [Return of Pet Visits](#)

With the easing of restrictions, we are happy to announce that pets may also return to the building. All visiting pets must be registered with the home. To register your pet for visiting, please call the home directly.

### [Social Day Outing Requirements](#)

Residents, regardless of their vaccination status, may now resume social day absences. For the safety of all residents, residents going on a social absence must wear a mask in public areas whenever possible, and wash hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers. You are further encouraged to physically distance yourself whenever possible in public settings or gatherings and to avoid crowds and large social gatherings.

Upon return from the day outing, residents will be screened into the home, and must undergo a rapid antigen test and a PCR test on day 5 post outing. No isolation is required.

If a resident has a known exposure to a case while on their absence, they must be treated as a high-risk contact, which would require the resident to be placed in isolation, a PCR would be conducted and then repeated on day 5. Upon a negative receipt of the day 5 PCR, the resident would then be removed from isolation (if the resident is vaccinated with at least 3 doses). Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated residents would be required to isolate for a period of 10 days with a PCR test on day 5.

### [Over Night Social Absence Requirements](#)

Overnight social absences are now permitted for those residents with at least three COVID-19 vaccine doses. Upon return to the home following an overnight absence, the resident will be screened upon entry and the resident is required to be placed into isolation. A PCR test will be conducted on day 5 or a Rapid Antigen test on both day 5 and day 6; upon a negative result of this test, the isolation will then be completed.

We will closely monitor for further loosening of restrictions by the ministry and ensure this is communicated to you. While the province continues to reopen and restrictions are easing, and this includes LTC, there are differences in how the restrictions are applied between the community and LTC. If you require clarification, please contact one of our homes.

*Laura MacDermaid*