



May 2, 2022

**The Regional  
Municipality  
of Durham**

Social Services  
Department

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Dear Family Member,

Across our four long-term care homes, we have an outbreak on one Resident Home Area at Lakeview Manor with five active cases remaining. For up-to-date information on the status of your home, please check the website at [www.durham.ca/lcupdates](http://www.durham.ca/lcupdates) and if you have any specific questions, do not hesitate to contact the home.

### Continuation of Chief Medical Officer of Health Directive

In light of recent increases in COVID-19 cases across Ontario, and out of an abundance of caution to protect the most vulnerable sector, the Chief Medical Officer of Health Directives for long-term care homes have been extended beyond April 27, 2022 and will remain in effect for at least 45 days. This directive relates to the safe operations of the long-term care homes and specifically to reduce the risk of COVID-19 while providing the greatest possible opportunities for maximizing resident quality of life.

This directive mandates that every home continue to meet requirements in auditing, infection control practices, personal protective equipment use, cleaning, outbreak management and admissions and transfers during COVID-19.

### Mask Mandate Extension

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has issued a new order that requires the use of masks indoors in long-term care homes until at least June 11, 2022 (unless otherwise extended or revoked). Masks are no longer required for residents, staff, students, visitors or volunteers when outdoors. Although the mask mandate was lifted in most public indoor spaces with some exceptions, you are still strongly encouraged to wear a well-fitted mask in those settings.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Dose Vaccination for Individuals over age 60

Eligibility for 4<sup>th</sup> dose of COVID-19 vaccine now includes individuals 60 years of age and older. It is recommended that eligible individuals receive a fourth dose at an interval of 140 days (5 months) following their third dose. A fourth dose may be administered at a minimum of 84 days (three months) following a third dose. Evidence indicates a longer interval between doses provides an improved immune response. If you have had a recent COVID-19 infection, it is recommended to wait three months after symptoms started or after testing positive to receive your fourth dose. With COVID-19 activity on the rise and a recent increase in COVID-19 related hospitalizations, a fourth dose can provide an additional layer of protection against COVID-19. Appointments can be booked at [www.durham.ca/vaccineappointment](http://www.durham.ca/vaccineappointment) or by calling 1-888-444-5113.

We are happy to see the return of some warm weather and can get outside for walks and sunshine. Our outdoor gardens and patios will soon be open for the season. For all the mothers, I wish you a very Happy Mother's Day on Sunday.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support and for remaining vigilant with public health measures, such as screening, testing, masking, and using appropriate personal protective equipment.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this letter or otherwise, please contact the home or me.

*Laura MacDermaid*