



October 13, 2020

Dear Residents, Visitors and Family Members

COVID-19 cases in the Middlesex-London region continue to rise. An increasing number of outbreaks in long-term care homes and retirement homes have been declared.

Considering this, the Middlesex-London Health Unit has now strongly recommended the following steps be taken by long-term care homes and retirement homes:

- All general or non-essential visits to facilities should cease. Essential visitors can continue to visit under previous precautions (see definition below of essential visitors).
- All in-person group events should be postponed indefinitely.
- All non-essential overnight short-stay absences should be discontinued; any absence that is overnight should require a 14-day quarantine upon return to the facility.
- If a resident is off-site for a non-essential reason, they should have contact only with their essential caregivers. The caregivers and the resident should remain masked at all times while off-site.

Essential Visitors:

Essential visitors are persons performing essential support services (e.g., food delivery, inspectors, maintenance, or health care services (e.g., lab, oxygen, physio, etc.) or a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident. A caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident. A maximum of 2 caregivers may be designated per resident at a time.

These new recommendations will take effect immediately at our home. Outdoor and indoor visits will be discontinued until further notice. Residents are only to be taken off-site by a person designated as their Essential Visitor as above unless being taken off-site for medical appointments. Window visits and virtual visits will continue to be offered. Please contact the activity department to make arrangements for window / virtual visits.

We were hoping to avoid limiting visitations at the home but we want to make sure we are following all the safety guidance provided to us by our local health unit. The safety of our residents and staff is our top priority. Thank you for your understanding in this challenging time. If you have any questions regarding visitation please contact our activation department. We will keep everyone updated on any further changes to our visitation guidelines. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Joe Babcock
Administrator