



NOTICE TO RESIDENT FAMILIES

Jan 4, 2022

Re: Ministry of Health Announcements from December 31

As you may have seen, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health made a number of announcements on December 31st. In addition to details about the 'return to school' plan for teachers and children across the province, the CMOH also made a number of announcements that are expected to have an impact on healthcare organizations. Attached separately is a [Summary of Changes](#), effective Dec 31st, 2021. A Question & Answer section is included in this document.

The following is key information for families of residents:

Residents eligible for 4th doses (3 months after receiving their 3rd dose).

The Ministry of Long-Term Care is strongly recommending a 4th dose for LTC residents because of increased vulnerability to the COVID-19 virus and the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre is currently in the process of setting up clinics for residents and will be contacting SDMs to obtain consent this month. You may [click here](#) to review the consent form.

Mandatory boosters

Booster shots for LTC staff, students, volunteers, support workers and caregivers have been made mandatory. Those who are eligible on or before December 31st will have until **January 28, 2022** to show proof of their booster dose.

The remainder of eligible staff, students, volunteers, and support workers will have until **March 14, 2022** to show proof of their booster dose.

The remainder of caregivers will have until **May 23, 2022** to show proof of their booster dose.

General visitors are currently paused and the Ministry will be working with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to determine ongoing requirements, including for children, prior to the pause concluding.

Reminder - Changes to How to Show Proof of Vaccination at Screening

We are sharing again this important change to how staff need to show proof of vaccination at screening.

Effective January 4, 2022, everyone who enters St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre must show their enhanced vaccine certificate (with an official QR code). We will no longer be able to accept the original vaccination receipt that the Ministry of Health emailed and/or physically gave residents after their COVID-19 vaccine.

Ontario residents with a green photo health card (even an expired one) can download the enhanced vaccine certificate from the government's website: <http://Ontario.ca/getproof>. You will need to have your health card on hand to get your enhanced vaccine certificate because, in addition to the health card number and letter code, you need the letter/number series on the back of the card. The enhanced vaccine certificate can be saved as a pdf (on your phone, for example) or printed. When coming to SJLC after January 4th, you will be able to use a printed or digital copy of the enhanced vaccine certificate and will have to show valid personal ID (e.g. your SJLC ID) at screening to confirm identity.

For anyone who has trouble downloading their QR code, or if you do not have a green photo health card, you will have to call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to have a copy emailed or mailed to you.



RAPIDLY EVOLVING SITUATION & UPDATES

While we continue to do everything we can to prevent COVID-19 cases at St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre, we also realize that the risk of COVID-19 coming into the facility increases as the number of cases in our community grow. We have a number of infection prevention and control precautions in place that have helped keep us safe these past 21+ months. We are, however, concerned that, as the COVID-19 situation in our community changes, the possibility of going into outbreak increases. If an outbreak was to be declared, we will keep families updated.

As has been our commitment to resident families since the beginning of the pandemic, we will call a resident's family directly if there is any change in the resident's health status.

A REMINDER ABOUT KINDNESS AND RESPECT

We recognize that the evolving Omicron situation and our ongoing challenges through this pandemic is stressful for us all. Yet again, 21+ months into this pandemic, we are being asked to make changes and reduce our contacts to help slow the spread of COVID.

We have experienced an increase in rudeness and aggressive comments and behaviour directed at staff in recent weeks. We understand that the behaviour is an outward sign of concern and fear over Omicron and the changing COVID situation.

We are all tired and weary from this long-haul battle against COVID-19. Staff at St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre have worked hard to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and we need to continue working together to ensure we do not give COVID-19 a foothold.

Please remember to treat one another with kindness and respect. We all deserve that, especially after another exceedingly difficult year that has demanded so much from each of us.

David Wormald

President

St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Brantford