



Family Update

March 21, 2022

The following is the latest update for families and caregivers of residents at St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre.

CHANGES TO GUIDELINES AND DIRECTIVES

As shared with families earlier this week, on Wednesday, March 9, we received communications from the Ministry of Long-Term Care regarding changes to guidelines and directives that have the potential to impact visitors. The Ministry of Long-Term Care will no longer require visitors to receive COVID-19 vaccinations, but instead has asked long-term care homes to develop our own policies regarding vaccinations, testing and a number of other items.

A MEASURED APPROACH

There is a great deal to consider. As always, our wish is to balance the safety of everyone who enters our facility with quality of life for our residents. On Thursday, March 17, the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table released projections which indicate that community spread and hospitalizations are expected to increase as final protections are lifted within the province.

For now, on the issue of vaccination, we will continue to require essential caregivers and general visitors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (two doses of Pfizer and Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson) and will continue to request proof at the screening desk. Testing requirements remain unchanged.

Mask wearing will remain in effect for all visitors and staff. Protocols regarding social distancing and frequent hand sanitization will also remain in effect. These measures provide a strong defence against transmission.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to observe COVID-19 activity in the community, the province, the nation and beyond our borders. Often, the emergence and behavior of new variants in other countries provides a window into what we can eventually expect here. We will continue to consult with family and resident council representatives on issues affecting visitors and residents. We will continue to look to public health to help guide our decisions.

Families are important partners in keeping our residents and each other safe. Thank you for all you continue to do. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.