

A Message from the President



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To say this has been a challenging year would be an understatement. Things we hold precious and took for granted are no longer easily available to us - most especially, the sight and touch of our loved ones.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been most strongly felt in Long-Term Care. In Ontario, 3800 people have died from the novel coronavirus since March, 2020. Of these deaths, approximately 60 per cent have been in long-term care. This number is very distressing to all of us who work in long-term care, and certainly to you, the family of long-term care residents. We must work together to ensure we are doing everything possible to prevent transmission at St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre Brantford.

Recently, we have seen a dramatic increase in infection transmissions across Southern Ontario. We are concerned about the added risk this presents to our home's residents, staff and our broader community.

Most families would never consider that they may be the source of infection for their loved one; sadly that is very possible now. With the holidays fast approaching, we encourage families to consider whether visiting on Christmas Day is the best choice for you and your loved one.

As an organization, we continue to follow the directives from the Ministry of Long-Term Care and Public Health. Public Health officials are urging community members not to visit any home that is not your own as COVID-19 is spreading from family and friends in home settings.

We understand that it is difficult for residents and families and recognize that the holidays are a time for special family-oriented celebrations. We encourage you to visit on the days before or after Christmas. We know that this year

the holiday season will be difficult for residents and their loved ones and that the COVID-19 pandemic has required all of us to adapt to constant changes and uncertainty.

VISITING REMINDERS

We have experienced some significant changes recently, especially with new screening and visiting requirements and it can take some time to get used to a new way of doing things. We hope that you will continue to be patient and work with us as we all adjust to the ongoing changes.

If you are a designated essential caregiver for your loved one, and are coming in to visit, please ensure that you are following our visiting policy while you are here. Here are some reminders of our visiting policy:

- Please ensure that you use hand sanitizer and take one of the non-clinical masks provided on entry to the building. Place the mask on your face in the presence of a screener, ensuring your nose and mouth are covered for the duration of your visit.
- Please go directly from the screening area to your loved one's

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"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2: 13-14



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

May the spirit of Christmas ease your burdens and fill your heart as we look to the new year with hope and promise.

room and remain in their room for the duration of your visit. You may not visit in any of the communal areas, including lounges and dining area, nor walk with the resident in the halls of our home. If you require assistance from a staff member, or have a question, please remain in the resident's room and use the call bell.

- Each resident may have a maximum of two designated essential caregivers. This designation must be made in writing by the resident or their Substitute Decision Maker.
- As Brant Public Health is in the Orange – Restrict level of the COVID-19 Response Framework, only one essential caregiver may visit at a time. General visitors are restricted from visiting until further notice.

We would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this constantly changing situation. We ask that you remember this process is new for everyone, including the staff who are responsible for its implementation as we continue to adhere to the Ministry requirements. We encourage you to take advantage of virtual visits whenever possible.

STAFF TESTING

In late November, as an added measure of safety, the Ministry of Long-Term Care issued a mandatory directive for all long-term care employees to be tested on a weekly basis.

St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre has taken steps to ensure weekly testing is completed by every staff member. On-site testing is available at various times throughout the week. Should any positive results be seen among staff members who were tested on site, the

health unit will notify us directly.

Staff who are tested at an assessment centre are required to show proof of having taken a test to the screening desk upon entry to the building during any given week.

At this time, we are pleased to report that we have no active COVID-19 cases among our staff or residents.

EXTERNAL LINKS

Now more than ever, it is important to consult reliable and trustworthy sources to have accurate and updated information about COVID-19. We strongly recommend and encourage you to visit official links like the ones below to stay up to date on this rapidly evolving situation.

Brant County Health Unit
www.bchu.org

Public Health Ontario
www.publichealthontario.ca

Additional info, as it relates specifically to St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre, can be found on our website at www.sjlc.ca



Our thanks to those who have donated to our Christmas Wish Tree. All donors are acknowledged on our Wish Tree Giving Board where permission has been granted.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOSEPH'S LIFECARE CENTRE

With visitation restrictions in place during the pandemic, we want you to know we are doing everything possible within our home to make Christmas as special as possible for our residents.

Our home is looking very festive right now, with Christmas trees decorated and poinsettias placed throughout the building.

As is tradition here, our Christmas Wish Tree is up in the lobby and donations are now being accepted. The Recreational Therapy team is ensuring that a gift will be under the tree for those residents who are without. We are pleased that so many members of the public have donated items this year.

For family members who wish to provide gifts for their loved ones, please ensure gifts are dropped off by December 18, at 4 p.m. This is necessary to allow enough time for mandatory 3-day quarantine and delivery co-ordination to residents' rooms on Christmas Eve.

Because of the mandatory requirement for essential caregivers to wear masks, meal sharing cannot take place this year. All residents will receive a special dinner on Christmas Day.

We will also be assisting residents in viewing a televised Christmas service of their choosing.