



DATE: Dec 17th, 2020 **TIME:** 2 p.m.
FROM: David Wormald, President
RE: COVID-19 Update

NOTICE TO FAMILIES OF RESIDENTS

Visitation Restrictions and Testing Requirements in place to reflect Code Orange-Restrict status

As you may be aware, the provincial government recently created a colour coded system for identifying the degree of COVID-19 risk in any given area of Ontario, with specific measures put in place for each risk level.

Restrict	Brantford and Brant County are currently coded Orange - Restrict.
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In accordance with regulations set out by the Ministry of Long-Term Care for Code Orange - Restrict protocols, the following visitation restrictions are now in place at St. Joseph's Long-Term Care:

- Short-stay and temporary absences are currently suspended.
- Only essential visitors are permitted visitation at this time.
- Inside visitation is restricted to one essential caregiver. Residents may have two designated essential caregivers however, only one may visit at a time, effective immediately.
- **TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS: upon each entry to the long-term care home, essential caregivers must provide proof of having received a negative test result within the last seven days.**

Families are encouraged to make arrangements with our staff for virtual visits, as well as window visits (weather-permitting).

Staff testing

To further prevent virus spread, the Ministry of Long-Term Care now requires all staff of Long-Term Care homes to be tested weekly. Proof of a negative test result within the last seven days must be provided.

Colour codes can change. As the number of COVID-19 cases increase or decrease in our area, the colour code and measures may change accordingly. When a colour code changes, St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre may revise our COVID-19 protocols to reflect this, and updated information will be posted on the [COVID-19 page](#) of our website. [You can check the daily status of each region of the province here.](#)

We strongly recommend you check the [COVID-19 page](#) of our website at least once daily for the most up-to-date information. All documents are listed by the date of publication with the most recent information appearing at the top of the list.

Important notice to families of residents: we all play a vital role in controlling the spread of the COVID-19 virus and bringing the pandemic to an end. It is important to recognize that all infection-control measures we introduce are mandatory, as directed by the Ministry of Long-Term Care. We are required by law to implement and enforce these measures for the protection of everyone who resides, works or visits here. The absolute intention of these measures is to save lives.

Families are key members of our COVID-19 prevention team. Your co-operation and understanding are vital to the safe operation of our Home and the well-being of your loved ones who reside here. I highly recommend you take every opportunity to connect with your loved ones using the safe methods of communication that are available to you.

Our sincerest thanks to our residents and their families for your great understanding and patience as we strive to manage each situation that arises. The good news is that a vaccine is expected to be available in a few months. Until then, we must do everything we can to control the spread of this deadly virus, especially now, when the rate of COVID-19 transmissions in Ontario is higher than ever.

As always, the safety of our residents and staff are our first priority. Thank you for working with us to achieve the most positive outcomes possible. We are in this together and our success is dependent on our united efforts.

Thank you