

MEMO:

Date: Friday July 16, 2021

Distribution: ALL STAFF, RESIDENTS, FAMILIES

Regarding: CHANGE IN SURVEILLANCE TESTING REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE FRIDAY JULY 16, 2021

From: Alexandra Grzeszczuk & Jessica Radon, Manors Administrator's

Effective Friday July 16, 2021 the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MHLTC) has made the changes to surveillance testing requirements. We are requesting that all essential caregivers, general visitors when coming into the home be prepared to demonstrate proof of vaccination. The rationale for this request is fully immunized individuals are subject to easing of certain restrictions as per MLTC guidance effective July 16, 2021.

Both Grace Manor, and Faith Manor have made the following adjustments to surveillance testing requirements based on vaccination status in an effort to continue to protect our residents within the Manors. With the Delta variant becoming the predominant strain in the community and known outbreaks despite vaccination, we will continue to complete ongoing surveillance testing in order to detect the virus early to allow for a quick response. We will be further reviewing these requirements with both our Residents and Family Councils before considering further reduction to testing requirements.

1. Fully Immunized against COVID-19: The individual has received the total required number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by Health Canada (e.g., both doses of a two-dose vaccine series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine series); AND they received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.

- **Fully Immunized against COVID-19 Staff, Student Placement or Volunteers:** RAT is required **once** per week (within a seven-day period). Staff, Students and Volunteers entering the facility infrequently (i.e. 2 times or less per week) are required to have a rapid antigen test **BEFORE** entry into the home.
- **Fully Immunized against COVID-19 Essential Caregivers:** A Rapid Antigen Test is required **once** per week (within a seven-day period) **BEFORE** entering the long-term care home.
- **Fully Immunized against COVID-19 General Visitors:**
- A Rapid Antigen Test is required once per week (within a 7-day period). If testing is required on the day of the visit, it must be completed **BEFORE** entering the long-term care home

2. Partially immunized against COVID-19: The individual has received only part of a COVID-19 vaccine series, OR it has been LESS than 14 days since their final vaccine in a series.

- **Partially Immunized against COVID-19 Staff, Student Placement or Volunteers:** A Rapid Antigen Test is required up to 2 times per week (within a seven-day period) on non-consecutive days.
- **COVID-19 Partially Immunized or Unimmunized Essential Caregivers:** A Rapid Antigen Test is required up to 2 times per week (within a seven-day period) on non-consecutive **BEFORE** entering the long-term care home.
- **Partially Immunized General Visitors:** A Rapid Antigen Test is required on the day of the visit **BEFORE** entering the long-term care home, OR demonstrate **proof** of a negative antigen test that was taken on the previous day before granting them full entry into the home as a visitor.

3. Unimmunized against COVID-19: The individual has not received a covid-19 vaccine.

- **COVID-19 UNVACCINATED Staff, Students or Volunteers:** are required to have a Rapid Antigen Test at every visit and must receive their results BEFORE entry into the home.
- **Unimmunized General Visitors:** A Rapid Antigen Test is required on the day of the visit BEFORE entering the long-term care home, OR demonstrate **proof** of a negative antigen test that was taken on the previous day before granting them full entry into the home as a visitor.

Some other notable changes from the most recent Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Directive Update Include:

- Daily resident symptom management requirement changed to once daily.
- Removal of maximums for visitors, each manor is now able to set maximums for visitors based on operational capabilities.
- Permitting of buffet/family style dining.
- Reintroduction of activities such as singing, dancing and karaoke.
- All residents now permitted to go on absences (regardless of vaccination status).
- Enabling resumption of offsite group outings for residents.
- Removal of requirement for rules contingent on the homes immunization coverage rates.

For information on visiting or absences, please see the [“LTC VISITOR ABSENCES AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS”](#) chart. We encourage residents and families to continue to follow the www.hch.ca website for up to date information from each respective manor. We would like to continue to express our thanks to our staff, residents, essential caregivers. We are so excited to continue to move forward through the COVID-19 Pandemic together!

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us directly!



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