

## Government Announcement on New Testing Rules and Visiting Restrictions

Due to rising case numbers of COVID-19, as well as the rapidly spreading Omicron variant, the Government of Ontario has introduced a number of new rules and restrictions surrounding testing and visiting in Long-Term Care Homes.

The following changes will be taking place across Holland Christian Homes effective Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:

### Faith and Grace Manor Changes

<b>Surveillance/Testing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All fully vaccinated staff, students, volunteers, and caregivers, will now be <b>tested 3x per week</b>, in addition to existing testing requirements for those not fully vaccinated.</li> <li>• Fully vaccinated general visitors and support workers will continue to require testing daily (testing is not required for infants under one year of age).</li> <li>• Visitors arriving for an <b>outdoor visit will now require testing before they enter the home.</b></li> <li>• Individuals who show proof of a confirmed COVID-19 infection in the <b>past 30 days</b> should not be re-tested except with the onset of symptoms or if they've travelled outside of Canada in the 14 days prior to entering a home.</li> </ul>
<b>Vaccinations</b>	<p><b><u>Effective December 15 at 7pm:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All general visitors to the homes, including children over the age of 1-year, need to be fully vaccinated.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Outdoor visits still permitted for unvaccinated individuals. See testing requirement above.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Effective December 20:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To gain entry to the homes, <b>caregivers must show proof of their first dose</b> as of December 20th and by February 21, 2022 to show proof of all required doses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>**Caregivers designated after December 14th are required to be fully vaccinated to gain entry to the home.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the interim, <b>designated caregivers who are not fully vaccinated would need to restrict their visit to the resident's room.</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>Visitors (general visitors and caregivers)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits from unvaccinated family and friends are highly discouraged at this time.</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor visits: Up to four people per resident at a time</b> (includes caregivers). Visits can only take place at the front of each Manor in the designated areas, with masks on at all times.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor visits: Up to two people per resident at a time</b> (includes caregivers).</li> <li>• Designated caregivers who are not fully vaccinated would need to restrict their visit to the resident’s room. *Infants under the age of one year do not count as a visitor*</li> <li>• Residents can designate a maximum of two caregivers (unless more than two caregivers were already designated prior to December 14<sup>th</sup>).</li> <li>• <b>If you want to share a meal with your loved one, it must take place in the resident’s room.</b> There will be no shared meals in the common areas/dining room.</li> <li>• Visitors are encouraged to use Zoom calls to connect residents with other family members who are not able to visit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities (communal dining, social activities)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohorting of residents will remain in place for high-risk activities (singing, dancing etc.) and dining.</li> <li>• Large group social activities will be cancelled.</li> <li>• Performances/entertainers permitted in adherence to visitor requirements regarding testing and vaccination.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be an increase frequency of IPAC audits to ensure all rules are being followed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Absences/Admissions/Transfers</b></p>	<p><u>Day absences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day absences for social purposes are permitted for <b>fully vaccinated residents only.</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Overnight absences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overnight absences for social purposes are being suspended,</b> regardless of vaccination status. Residents who wish to leave the home overnight for social purposes will need to follow the appropriate discharge process, as required in section 147.1 of O.Reg.79/10 (General) under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 as well as the re-admission protocol when they return at a later date.</li> <li>• Essential, medical and compassionate and palliative overnight absences are still permitted, regardless of vaccination status.</li> </ul> <p><u>Requirements upon return/admission/transfer to home</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day absences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Actively screen residents upon return;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rapid test and PCR test on day 3 following absence, followed by a PCR test on day 7. No isolation is required unless positive result is received.</li> <li>○ If known exposure to a case, PCR test on day 1 and day 7 and isolate until a negative result is confirmed from day 7.</li> </ul> <p>• For all return/admissions/transfers from another healthcare facility that is not in an outbreak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If asymptomatic and fully vaccinated and no known exposure to a case, do PCR test prior to admission or on arrival at the LTCH, with isolation until a negative test result is received.</li> <li>○ Do enhanced symptom screening on admission and twice daily for 10 days following the return/admission/transfer.</li> </ul> <p>• For all other return/admissions/transfers to the home (not including day absences):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A PCR test is required prior to admission or on day 1, and on day 7. Isolation is required until a negative result is confirmed from day 7 (the test prior to admission is only valid the day of, or from the previous day).</li> <li>○ Do enhanced symptom screening on admission and twice daily for 10 days following the return/admission/transfer.</li> </ul>
<b>Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All individuals must be actively screened prior to entry into the home.</li> <li>• Daily symptom screening is required for residents in the home unless requirements related to return/admissions/transfers apply</li> </ul>

**Towers Changes**

It is strongly recommended that the following IPAC principles be adhered to:

- Visitors to apartments are limited to immediate family
- All visitors should be fully vaccinated
- Masks should be worn during visits

Please note that Towers Nursing Staff will not enter apartments if there are unmasked visitors present. Please ensure that visitors wear masks at all times.

This is not news that any of us wanted, and we recognize that with the changes surrounding visiting comes some challenges for residents and family members. But it is incredibly important that we all work together and abide by these new restrictions in order to keep all of our residents, family members and staff safe.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Holland Christian Homes as we navigate these challenging times.