

October 9, 2020

To: All Pioneer Manor residents, families and substitute decision makers

Re: COVID-19 Update #23

We thank everyone for their ongoing support and would like to share the following updates:

Updated COVID-19 Visiting Policy

The Ministry of Long-Term Care has updated the COVID-19 Visiting Policy effective October 7, 2020. The policy provides guidance for homes located in an area that has been identified as having higher community spread of COVID-19. Changes have been made to the types and number of visitors permitted to visit the home. As a reminder, a caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident (e.g. supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision making). Specifically, the policy indicates that, subject to direction from public health:

1. Where the area **has not** been identified as having higher community spread and the Home **is not** in an outbreak:
 - A maximum of 2 caregivers or 2 general visitors per resident may visit at a time
2. Where the area has been identified as having higher community spread or the home is in an outbreak:
 - A maximum of 1 caregiver per resident may visit at a time
 - No general visitors are permitted to visit
3. If a resident is self-isolating or symptomatic:
 - A maximum of 1 caregiver may visit that resident at a time
 - No general visitors are permitted to visit that resident

Currently, the City of Ottawa, the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel have been identified as communities with higher community spread of COVID-19, and the government has released a [webpage](#) that lists the long-term care homes in these areas. The Ministry will issue an update if there are any changes to the list of communities identified as areas with higher community spread.

All visitors to the Home continue to be required to follow Public Health measures (e.g., active screening, physical distancing, hand hygiene, masking) for the duration of their visit in the home. Caregivers must also attest to having a negative COVID-19 test within the previous fourteen days, without a subsequent positive test. The Visiting Policy continues to balance the need to protect against the risk of COVID-19, and support residents in receiving the care they need, including maintaining their physical and emotional well-being.

Resident Meal Service

The food services team has been working diligently to enable the remaining residents to transition back to dining rooms and reunite with their friends. Plexiglass dividers have been purchased to allow up to four residents to sit together while maintaining appropriate social distancing.

Flu Shot

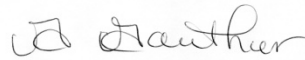
Influenza is a respiratory infection caused by a virus. It is spread from person-to-person through droplets sprayed into the environment when coughing or sneezing. The Influenza virus changes every year, so people can be infected with influenza each year even if they've had their flu shot in previous years. The influenza virus can affect everybody, however, young children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems or those with chronic health conditions are at highest risk of suffering from complications of influenza. Your best defense against influenza continues to be immunization. Influenza vaccine is now available, and may be accessed through your health care provider, Public Health, or local pharmacy. Everyone is encouraged to receive their flu shot this year.

As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Aaron Archibald
Director



Glenda Gauthier
Manager of Resident Care



Dr. Maurice St. Martin
Medical Director, Pioneer Manor

c.c.: Councillor René Lapierre, Chair, Community Services Committee
Ed Archer, Chief Administrative Officer
Steve Jacques, General Manager, Community Development
Dianna Foster and Terry Martyn – Family Council
Patricia Martyn – Resident Council