



LOCH LOMOND VILLA, INC.

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Date: June 21st, 2021

To: Families, Residents and Staff

From: Cindy Donovan, CEO

Re.: COVID-19 and other Organizational Update

Hello to our Villa Community!

Today we have a lot to celebrate, not only that it is the 1st day of Summer but as a province we are moving on the "Path to Green". Considering the recent lessening of restrictions, we are happy to share with you some changes that will begin today at Loch Lomond Villa.

- ECPs (Essential Care Partners) will continue with screening and signing in when entering the home. Please do not enter the home if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. Our screener will now ask the screening questions to ECPs upon entering and **ECPs will no longer need to complete the screening tool.** ECPs will still be required to have their temperature checked and wear a mask. However, **ECPs will no longer need to wear the yellow isolation gown!** The Safe Visiting Practice Guidelines provided during the ECP training will be revised to reflect the recent changes.
- **ECPs are now able to take their loved one offsite. Overnight offsite visits will now be permitted as well.** Our residents will be so excited as they have been waiting for so long for this change. This will need to be arranged with the House RN, and the proper forms filled out prior to leaving the premises. All infection prevention protocols, and public health measures must still be adhered to for offsite visiting (masking, hand hygiene, safe transportation etc.)
- We ask all staff and all people entering our homes to be mindful of where you have been and make yourself aware of Public Health exposure locations and times as they are frequently updated. We must continue to conduct a risk assessment based on events within Loch Lomond Villa and/or community spread.
- **As of this past Friday we have vaccinated 86% of our employees and 96% of our residents.** We have been blessed to be able to conduct 6 COVID-19 Vaccine clinics right here at Loch Lomond Villa. A big THANK YOU to our Vaccine Clinic Team as we could not have provided these clinics without them! **We would like to encourage all ECPs to provide proof of 1st and 2nd vaccinations** to Melissa Goguen via her email mgoguen@lochlomondvilla.com or drop off a copy to the receptionist when visiting. Thank you in advance. Loch Lomond Villa encourages our entire Villa Community to become vaccinated against COVID-19 to keep everyone safe.
- To date we have trained over 300 Essential Care Partners who can continue to visit 3 times a week in their loved one's bedroom, or outside distanced from others. A reminder that you cannot eat or drink when visiting, however you can bring a treat/meal for your loved ones.
- Short inside and outside visits in a designated area continue and can be booked by calling Tricia Hayes at **721-0335** between 10am and 3pm Monday through Friday. Physical distancing must be maintained. General Visitors do not need to complete the ECP application for these visits.

- **Resident masking:** As restrictions begin to loosen with the inclusion of offsite visits and resident cohorts, residents are encouraged to add a layer of individual protection by wearing a mask. Although not required, residents should be encouraged/offered to wear a mask while inside the facility: during communal activities, during visitation, while travelling through common areas in the home, while receiving services from an external service provider, or any time a resident would like a mask. Residents who wish to wear a mask will be assisted by staff as needed.
- Resident bubbles will continue to be the individual house the resident resides on. Effective today, **residents in their consistent cohort (house bubble) may gather, without the requirements of physical distancing. This means, all residents on the house can dine together.** Hand Hygiene for residents will continue to be encouraged when entering and exiting the dining room.
- Resident van trips will now include more residents from the same house (bubble). Residents will be required to wear a mask on the van due to no physical distancing.
- All deliveries, packages and non-perishables must continue to be dropped off in the foyer as they must be held for 48 hours as recommended by Public Health. Perishable food items can be brought in with packaging needing to be wiped down.
- **Staff who have received both COVID-19 vaccines will no longer need to have sentinel testing completed.**
- Loch Lomond Villa will begin offering **random Rapid COVID-19 Testing** onsite for interested people as an added extra protection in keeping others safe. More details on this testing in the coming weeks.
- We will soon be reconnecting with our valuable, dedicated **volunteers** to offer them education and training so they can return to their important roles in assisting our residents and staff as before the pandemic. Volunteers will be required to have received their 1st vaccine prior to returning.
- I would also like to share with our entire Villa Community an exciting provincially funded research project where we will be introducing a new care team member to 3 of our Houses: Willow, Maple, and Elm. These **“Care Assistants”** will be supporting the nursing team by conducting non-clinical tasks on these houses. The goals of this study are for staff to be able to hopefully spend more time with residents and improved staff satisfaction. This 4-month study begins today and will finish in October 2021. Once the final report is completed, we hope to be able to share with everyone its success. Please welcome our newest team members.
- The wellbeing of our staff has always been a priority as part of our Planetree Person-Centered philosophy, but over the past 16 months, its importance has become even more abundantly clear. As we ask our staff teams to continue to push through the pandemic, **Resiliency sessions** are being offered to support and help our staff to meet these insurmountable challenges.

To all our new families, our Family Partnership Council members, residents and staff, all past updates and memos are posted on our **Loch Lomond Villa website** for your information. Just click on the “News” tab.

Please note that these changes are in place while we are in the “Green Phase of Recovery”. We are all looking forward to the further lessening of restrictions. Long-term care facilities will be lessening restrictions slower than the general population due to caring for the most vulnerable population.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and encouragement.

Cindy