



## LOCH LOMOND VILLA, INC.

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Date: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
To: Families and Residents  
From: Cindy Donovan, CEO  
Re.: COVID Update

This past week at Loch Lomond Villa was one to celebrate! Over 204 trained Essential Care Partners blessed their loved ones with visits this past week. On Thursday evening we welcomed another 23 Essential Care Partners to our training session provided by Deanna MacLean and Shelley Shillington. We could not do what we do without an awesome Loch Lomond Villa team of staff.

I have received several calls and emails this week asking if we are going to be further reducing our infection and control measures since 90% of our residents are fully vaccinated. I would like to share with you the following excerpt from our friends in BC.

*"A new outbreak of COVID-19 has been declared at the Cottonwoods Care Centre in B.C.'s Interior Health region where staff and residents had already received vaccines, the provincial health officer announced Monday. The B.C. Centre for Disease Control has confirmed on its website that 82 per cent of residents had been vaccinated as of Feb. 15."*

*In a live news conference, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said being vaccinated does not mean transmission will be stopped and that precautions must remain in place for seniors and care homes.*

Loch Lomond Villa will continue to stay the course as directed by the New Brunswick COVID Task Force and our Public Health Officials. We are being told that there will be a delay in residents and staff receiving their 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine dose. There is evidence that shows that it does not make a difference if the second vaccine is received within 28 days or up to 16 weeks. In New Brunswick we have been told that 2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccine clinics are being delayed due to this evidence. The priority is to have New Brunswickers receive their 1<sup>st</sup> vaccine dose as quickly as possible. For all residents that may need their 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine dose or have not received their 1<sup>st</sup> vaccine, we will be monitoring this situation closely and will notify our residents/families as soon as we receive notification. I have repeatedly advocated our willingness to hold vaccine clinics for our Essential Care Partners as well as our Seniors living in our many apartments. To date, we have not received approval to hold any further vaccine clinics on-site at Loch Lomond Villa.

At this time, all Essential Care Partners are required to be actively screened while entering for your visits by our hired screeners. Over the last week we have had several ECPs not arrive at their confirmed scheduled appointment. I need to remind everyone that you must **arrive on time** and if you are not going to be able to keep your visit appointment please let us know **by calling 721-0335**.

We are very sorry to also inform you that we can not be changing the confirmed schedule. Over the last week, my team have been asked to make many schedule changes which we are not able to do. We do hope you understand and thank you for your continued cooperation.

ECPs are now permitted to bring in fresh flowers for their loved one, except Easter Lilies due to severe allergies of others. ECPs are not able to have a meal/drink with their loved ones as this would require the ECP to remove their mask and this is not permitted. Masks must be always worn while visiting.

Loch Lomond Villa is very pleased to share with our ECPs that as the weather starts to be nicer and we remain in the Yellow Alert Phase, ECPs may take their loved one outside for some fresh air. The following process must be adhered to when taking a resident off their House: travel directly from the House to the outside and not stop and talk to other ECPs or residents; always stay 6 feet from others; ECPs must always wear their mask inside and outside; notify the RN that you are leaving the building; you must remain on Loch Lomond Villa premises and away from the parking lots. We will soon be unlocking the outside courtyards for residents to enjoy with our staff only, as staff are required to maintain cohorting of residents from one house only and not mix resident house bubbles.

Our Recreation Team, along with others are exploring how we can safely take our residents out once again in our van. Residents will need to be from their House bubble, if not they will need to be wearing a medical mask while in the van. Our Cycling Without Age Program team are working hard at re-instating this awesome cycling program for our residents this summer. The sport of cycling in Saint John has evolved and grown in popularity during the pandemic, so we are very excited to be able to offer our program while maintaining all the required infection prevention and control measures. More information will be shared in a future update.

We continue to receive questions regarding ECPs noticing that some residents and their ECP can leave the resident room to wander. As part of our ECP training we have shared that many residents have dementia, and some may not be able to stay in their room. We would hope that our families understand this need and therefore yes you may see this occurring on your House. Throughout this pandemic, we have had to control the many risk factors to ensure everyone's safety, and this required limiting the number of people coming in our doors. Public Health directives states 20% of all residents to have a visit per day, currently we are at higher percentage of ECPs visiting each day. The more people we have walking in the hallways in our Houses and common areas, the increased risk we have to everyone's safety. Public Health still requires our residents to remain in their house bubble and physical distance while in the dining rooms during meals. We have had to limit 2 residents at each dining room table. This is also why ECPs are not permitted in the dining areas.

We do understand that everyone is tired and only want everything to return to how it used to be. No one really knows what our new normal will look like, but we are seeing a light at the end of this pandemic thanks to the vaccine roll out. We must remain vigilant for a little while longer. We thank you, our residents, and families, for your cooperation and assistance in keeping everyone safe and well.