



## LOCH LOMOND VILLA, INC.

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Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To: Families and Residents

From: Cindy Donovan, CEO

Re.: COVID Update

As we turn the corner toward a year of actively living amid a global pandemic, we are reminded just how important providing person centered care is to our residents, families, and staff. Our residents and staff, are receiving vaccines (yay!), we have opened our doors to the resident's Essential Care Partners with restricted measures, and it's important for us to remember the importance of providing support to all, while we continue to navigate the Covid-19 Pandemic.

It has been a long and challenging time maintaining all the pandemic safety restrictions. We **thank you** for your resilience and dedication to keeping our residents and staff safe.

Our teams have reviewed the guidance for the new Yellow Alert Level. Today, moving to the Yellow Phase is a day to celebrate. Until such time that our processes can be changed at Loch Lomond Villa, **please continue to remain vigilant with the previous visiting restrictions.**

### **Essential Care Partner Program**

**As of Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome back both trained Essential Care Partners for all Residents. ECPs will receive a call from our team to confirm their visiting schedule as this week unfolds.** ECPs will still be required to be actively screened upon entry by a Loch Lomond Villa employee. ECPs will be able to provide their loved one with parcels verses leaving them in the foyer in each building. Flowers will be permitted entry but no Lillies please due to major allergies. ECPs must include their loved one as part of their steady 15 contacts as part of this Yellow Phase. ECPs are reminded to arrive on time to their scheduled visit and remain in their loved one's room when visiting.

### **Sentinel Testing**

I would like to thank all ECPs for attending our sentinel testing clinics over the last 4 weeks. Moving forward, Loch Lomond Villa is **strongly encouraging** all our ECPs to participate **weekly** in the **sentinel testing program** to add a further measure of protection for our residents and staff. Instructions for this testing is below and **will now be provided by Public Health.** Individuals who participate in sentinel testing are not required to self-isolate (unless otherwise instructed by Public Health). Sentinel testing is when the person is **asymptomatic of COVID**

**symptoms.** If you have one or more COVID symptoms you are considered **symptomatic** and must follow all applicable PH measures and restrictions.

**Importance of sentinel testing is:**

- Reduce the risk of introducing COVID-19 to our Home.
- Individuals may be asymptomatic but still be infected with COVID.
- Evidence that asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission can occur.

Sentinel testing can be done at the COVID-19 Assessment Centers. ECPs can register for a test (both sentinel and symptomatic) by the:

- **Online form:** visit [www.gnb.ca/coronavirus](http://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus) and click “**get tested**” or
- **Phone:** call priority line **1-833-475-0724** and identify yourself as part of a priority group.

**Please note:** the quickest way to register for testing is done through the online portal, using the link above, complete the self-assessment, identify yourself as a **nursing home worker**. Ensure you have entered the correct phone number in the assessment form, as you will be contacted directly by the Assessment Centre to confirm the date and time of your test.

**Results**

Public Health will notify you by telephone if you are positive. For negative results, please access **myHealthNB with the access code** provided to you at the Assessment Centres. Please do not call 8-1-1 to ask for your results.

**Important Note: if you develop symptoms after registering for a sentinel test, you must re-register and identify your symptoms in order for your test to be completed as a priority.**

**Important Note: If at anytime you are experiencing any COVID symptoms you must postpone your ECP visit until you have received a negative result. Please if you are feeling unwell do not visit Loch Lomond Villa. Thank You.**

We are very pleased to be able to have our staff continue to participate in sentinel testing on-site at Loch Lomond Villa and Village on a weekly basis.

These are challenging and unprecedented times. These necessary restrictions continue to limit the possibility of the virus being introduced into our Homes while ensuring that compassionate, safe care is provided.

Thank You

Cindy