



January 27, 2021

## COVID-19 Outbreak Status Update #2

Dear Saint Luke's Place Staff, Residents & Families:

We have been informed by Waterloo Wellington Public Health Unit that our **outbreak status continues in the E Wing Unit.**

We currently have 5 team members that have test positive for COVID as detected during our surveillance swabbing process. The first 2 team members have tested a week ago and are recovering with lessening symptoms. Out of the most recent 3 team members, 1 team member has no symptoms. We currently have 7 residents testing positive. The first 2 residents that tested positive are recovering with mild symptoms. The remaining 5 residents who tested positive recently have 1 had symptoms and 4 had none.

All individuals have had some connection to the initial hot spot in our E Wing Unit, however unfortunately some of the team members were in other areas of the home, therefore; **due to this WWPHU has placed the entire Home in outbreak status with full PPE required at all times.**

All team members who tested positive are following directives and are at home in isolation.

Tuesday January 26, 2021, we began the re-testing for COVID19 of all residents on E wing and A lower which yielded the 5 positive results for resident on E wing with the remainder so far being negative.

Wednesday January 27, 2021 we will be COVID19 testing the residents on A Main, A Second and our transition wing patients.

If we have any resident that may show any signs and/or symptoms- they will be swabbed as a precaution under the direction of the WWPHU.

We completed the COVID vaccination process for all residents consenting to this on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with the assistance of a team from WWPHU. Currently, we do not have any dates for the second vaccination for our long-term care residents but will update you when we have more information.

We have been informed today that our team member and essential care givers vaccination process will not be resuming except for those who were prescheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Yara Jansen, Social Worker recently sent an email to families indicating at this time all family members on the essential care givers list are to remain at home and away from the facility until

the outbreak is declared over and not visit unless you provide feeding or supervision to your loved one during meal service.

We also ask that you do not bring in any outside food or beverages to your loved one during the outbreak period.

For those family members who will be coming to assist with meal service, we remind you to be vigilant and strict with wearing appropriate PPE and **not removing it for any reason at any time during your visit**. Keep your distance to protect residents, staff, and yourself.

Please protect yourself and your families and friends wearing masks, ensuring hand hygiene, and keeping distance while out in the community, car pooling, taking the bus, or grocery shopping to keep it out of our home and to stop the spread in the community.

We understand this continues to be an ongoing difficult and stressful time for you and your families. The health and safety of our residents, their families and our staff are our priority and a duty we take seriously. We continue to take stringent precautionary measures to assist in the prevention of transmission of any virus and to comply with directives from government officials and public health experts.

**As per our last update I will include again information regarding:**

- Social Distancing and Dining
- Essential Visitors and Caregivers
- Limitations on Outings
- Home Environment
- Protecting the health & safety of residents and staff

We continue to work closely with the Public Health Unit to ensure that any needed testing is conducted in accordance with their directive. Where indicated, residents with symptoms will be quickly tested. Our Team Members are closely monitoring our residents' vital signs twice daily paying special attention to all symptoms including but not limited to: fever, sore throat, temperature, cough, etc. As soon as someone is symptomatic, they are placed in isolation, outbreak protocols are initiated, and a swab is taken and sent for testing.

All our precautionary measures continue to be in place with strict adherence as well as diligent twice daily resident and staff monitoring.

### **Social Distancing and Dining**

Social gatherings and functions are deferred, and social distancing continues to be always in place. Our home area dining rooms always remain with social distancing in place. Our social gatherings remain cohorted on separate home areas with group activities remaining on hold.

### **Essential Visitors and Caregivers**

Our visitation is managed in accordance with our policy daily to ensure the health and safety of our residents and staff. Essential caregivers and visitors must comply with active screening measures as well as the weekly swabbing requirements, and those who fail screening or fail to remain current with the required swabbing status will not be permitted in the home. We remain with one essential caregiver and or visitor permitted in the home per resident and only those assisting with meal service will be permitted in the facility during the outbreak.

### **Limitations on Outings**

Our outings are managed in accordance with our policy ensuring the health and safety of our residents and staff. We have restricted outings to medical emergencies only. All residents requiring going out for a medical emergency will be required to isolate for 14 days upon return.

## Home Environment

Our strict cleaning and disinfectant protocols continue to be in place and are being followed and include enhanced cleaning in accordance with authority driven best practices. We have additional cleaning practices in place as per the recommendations daily. We have further increased our cleaning routines in all home areas.

## Protecting the health & safety of residents and staff

All staff are being actively screened when entering the building and at end of shift, including taking temperatures. All staff must enter and exit the facility wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)- face mask and shield and must use the appropriate PPE consistent with the task they are carrying out as specifically directed by the Chief Medical Officer for the province of Ontario.

N95 mask fit testing is available for staff by Jennifer Coburn- ADOC and Sarah McArthur- HR and supplies of such masks are available for use. Our homes have enough PPE to protect staff and residents for several weeks with additional stock on standby.

Staff are reminded to ensure all safety measures are taken when on break- do not share food or drink, keep physically distanced, and clean and sanitize area after use. In addition to those team members who carpool or take public transportation to be diligent that face protection and hand hygiene are used and are completed.

Additionally, all other heightened levels of infection control and outbreak protocols continue to be actively monitored and adhered to.

We thank you for your understanding during this difficult time and assure you that we are continuing to make decisions in the best interest of our residents and team members to ensure their health and safety, first and foremost.

We thank all our team members at Saint Luke's Place for your service, dedication, and hard work, you are the backbone of our facility and everything you do has not gone unnoticed.

Saint Luke's Place Board of Directors are kept abreast of all that emerges within the Home. The Directors wanted to share:

*"Please convey our sincere gratitude to the hard-working staff and Dr. Baker at St Luke's Place - listening to him (Dr. Baker), David, and Maureen, it has been very tough and difficult times for our residents and all the staff. We need to be very grateful for the serious attention to detail and the amazing success St Luke's Place has had during this pandemic.*

If you have any questions, please reach out to any manager who can assist you in your concerns or questions.