



14 September 2021

## COVID-19 Update

Dear Families and Friends,

We wanted to share a few new updates on the status of COVID-19 in our region and across the province.

As noted by Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam, the country has entered a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic as variants of the virus continue to spread, namely among the unvaccinated. Just yesterday, 600 new cases were reported in Ontario and 74 locally in Simcoe-Muskoka.

As of September 8, 95% of staff in Long-Term Care and Seniors Services have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, with 91% fully vaccinated. On the resident side, on average across our long-term care and retirement homes, 99% are now fully vaccinated. This is an incredible accomplishment and will undoubtedly help to protect our residents, staff and communities.

Should you or anyone you know be interested in getting vaccinated, please speak with your IPAC lead or visit <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19/Vaccine-and-Immunization> for a list of drop-in clinics across our region, which is updated every Monday.

### **New Third Vaccination Dose**

As the delta variant continues to impact our pandemic recovery, on August 17, the province announced that a third dose of vaccination will be offered to high-risk congregate settings such as Long-Term Care Homes and affiliated Retirement Homes, including all residents who reside in the County’s long-term care and retirement homes.

We are pleased to share that the third dose will be available to eligible residents from September 14 to 17. Residents are required to have received their second vaccination at least five (5) months prior to this third dose. Should a resident not meet this condition, the third dose will be offered once they have reached the five-month mark.

Attached to this communication you will find a consent form for your consideration. Our IPAC Specialists have completed all consent forms for residents who can make the decision to receive the third vaccine dose. We encourage you to speak to your loved one about this option and address any questions they may have. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your home’s IPAC Specialist, as listed below:

<b>Georgian Manor</b>	Chloe Dupuis	<a href="mailto:chloe.dupuis@simcoe.ca">chloe.dupuis@simcoe.ca</a>
<b>Simcoe Manor</b>	Arubia Shyam	<a href="mailto:arubia.shyam@simcoe.ca">arubia.shyam@simcoe.ca</a>
<b>Sunset Manor</b>	Rebecca Swift	<a href="mailto:rebecca.swift@simcoe.ca">rebecca.swift@simcoe.ca</a>
<b>Trillium Manor</b>	Kelly Miner	<a href="mailto:kelly.miner@simcoe.ca">kelly.miner@simcoe.ca</a>

## **New COVID Strategies**

Given the continually evolving direction from the Ministry of Long-Term Care regarding COVID-19 policies, we felt now would be a good opportunity to recap a few recent changes to:

- **TESTING (RESIDENTS TESTING DATES OVERNIGHT, NON-VACCINATED)**

Testing and quarantine (self-isolation) of fully immunized individuals who are asymptomatic with no known COVID-19 exposures: As per Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee's (PIDAC) Interim Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control for Health Care Providers and Patients Vaccinated Against COVID-19 in Hospital and Long-Term Care Setting, testing and quarantine is no longer required for fully immunized residents who are being admitted, transferred or returning to the home from an absence.

Testing and quarantine of partially immunized or unimmunized individuals who are asymptomatic with no known COVID-19 exposures: A lab-based PCR test is required at time of admission/transfer/return from overnight absence (i.e., day 0), and the resident must be placed in quarantine on Droplet and Contact Precautions for a minimum of 10 days. A second negative lab-based PCR test result collected on day 8 is required to discontinue quarantine on Droplet and Contact Precautions on day 10; if this second test is not obtained, quarantine on Droplet and Contact Precautions must be maintained until day 14.

- **EXCURSION COHORTING BY FLOOR**

Residents from the same unit may go on excursions together outside of their dining cohort assignments. The number of residents on the bus will remain the same to allow physical distancing. Residents will continue to be encouraged to wear a mask while on the excursions.

## **New LT CARE**

We are pleased to announce the launch of LTCARE, a refreshed approach for staff, families, residents and volunteers to express ideas, feedback and concerns to leaders.

LT CARE or Learning Together: Communicate, Advance, Resolve, Evaluate, is an additional way to communicate, joining talk/email/text, and engaging on our town halls by asking questions or making comments.

To provide your feedback, complete the LT CARE Form which will be available at the home and electronically on our website:

PDF Document Online:

<https://www.simcoe.ca/LongTermCare/Documents/LTCare%20form%20Au21.pdf>

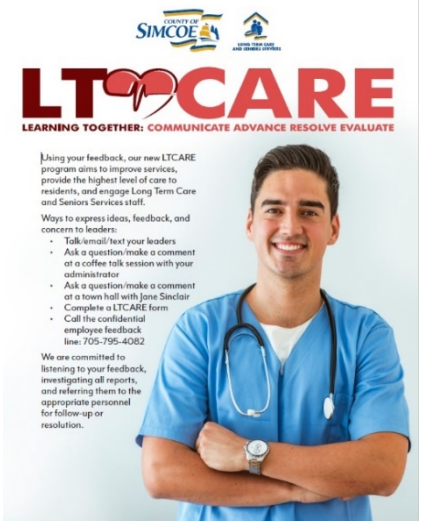
As well, they are located on the following main pages:

Main Page: <https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ltc/about>

Georgian Manor/Residence/Village: <https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ltc/georgian>

Simcoe Manor/Village: <https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ltc/simcoe>

Sunset Manor/Suites: <https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ltc/sunset>



The image shows the LTCARE logo at the top, which includes the Simcoe County logo and the text "LTCARE" in large red letters with a heart symbol. Below the logo is the tagline "LEARNING TOGETHER: COMMUNICATE ADVANCE RESOLVE EVALUATE". To the right is a photograph of a smiling male healthcare worker in blue scrubs with a stethoscope. To the left of the photo is text describing the LTCARE program and providing ways to express feedback.

Using your feedback, our new LTCARE program aims to improve services, provide the highest level of care to residents, and engage Long Term Care and Seniors Services staff.

Ways to express ideas, feedback, and concern to leaders:

- Talk/email/text your leaders
- Ask a question/make a comment at a coffee talk session with your administrator
- Ask a question/make a comment at a town hall with Jane Sinclair
- Complete a LTCARE form
- Call the confidential employee feedback line: 705-795-4082

We are committed to listening to your feedback, investigating all reports, and referring them to the appropriate personnel for follow-up or resolution.

Trillium Manor: <https://www.simcoe.ca/dpt/ltc/trillium>

We will continue to keep you updated as we learn more during this fourth wave of COVID-19. Please continue to follow all the recommended precautions when out in public. We wish you well and stay safe.

Sincerely,

*Jane*

Jane Sinclair  
General Manager, Health and Emergency Services  
County of Simcoe