



May 3, 2021

COVID-19 Update

Dear Family and Friends,

Our partners at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit continue to keep us advised of updates to the provincial vaccination campaign. We are pleased to share that today at 8 a.m., individuals 18 years of age (in 2021) and older who live in an identified Hot Spot Community, which includes those living in the L3Z postal code, are eligible to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at a mass immunization clinic through the provincial booking system.

In addition, beginning Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 8 a.m. the following groups will be eligible to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment through the provincial booking system by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 or online at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine):

- Individuals turning 50 and over in 2021
- Individuals with High-Risk Health Conditions (see list of conditions below)
- Essential Workers Who Cannot Work from Home who Fall Under First Group (see list below)
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals, in addition to separate channels for booking at local Indigenous-specific clinics

For more details, visit <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/COVID-19/Vaccine-and-Immunization>

Staff Appreciation Month

In May the County of Simcoe will be celebrating the work of our incredible staff by hosting a number of appreciation events and activities. These celebrations coincide with National Nursing Week (May 10-16), PSW Day (May 19), along with National Physician's Day (May 1st) and will help to recognize the invaluable contributions of all of our caregivers working across Long-Term Care and Seniors Services. For more information on the contributions of our health-care providers, visit the [County's website](#).

Window and Essential Caregiver Visits

Under the new Provincial declaration of emergency and stay-at-home order, we are pleased to have been able to continue to offer essential caregiver visits one at a time, including when a loved one is in quarantine/isolation due to absence, and window visits as the weather has allowed. We thank you all for your ongoing patience and support.

Long-Term Care and Seniors Service Terminology

In our update emails and family town hall meetings, we often share information regarding staffing levels within our homes, including prior to the pandemic and when a home is in outbreak. We thought it might be helpful to provide more details on what these terms mean.

Please remember that decision-making on staffing levels is determined by multiple variables, including rate of infection, number of units involved, etc., and the health and safety of our residents and staff is always at the forefront of any direction we take.

- **Core Baseline** is approved staffing levels by unit and position as required by the Ministry of Long-Term Care during normal operation to ensure resident care can be appropriately

achieved. These care ratios can change based on the needs of the unit (some units may require additional staff due to the requirements of the residents on that unit)

- **Pandemic Upstaffing** consists of core baseline staffing (above) plus the increased number of staff needed to compensate for the enhanced measures taken during a pandemic, i.e. enhanced cleaning, and increased care needs
- **Outbreak Upstaffing** consists of baseline and pandemic levels plus additional staff to accommodate further restrictions put in place when a home goes into outbreak – residents unable to leave their rooms, heightened precautions and, if a unit is in outbreak, then staff cohorting to specific units to limit the interactions

2021 Sunset Manor New Hires

The County has executed an extensive recruitment campaign to fill vacancies across Long-Term Care and Seniors Services. Between January 1, 2021 and April 26th we hired 65 new employees, including two (2) full-time temporary, three (3) full-time permanent, one (1) part-time temporary, and three (3) part-time permanent in the following positions at Sunset Manor:

- Personal Support Workers – 2
- Registered Practical Nurses – 1
- Home Services Assistants - 3
- Environmental Services - 1
- Management/Administrative Staff - 2

Vaccination Update

We are pleased to share our staff vaccination rate at Sunset Manor has now reached 85% for staff, 100% for residents and 79% for all caregivers. Sunset Suites have achieved 90% for all residents. This is a tremendous accomplishment and we couldn't be prouder of our staff, residents and caregivers.

The safety and well-being of your loved one remains our highest priority, and we will continue to do everything we can to keep them safe and well during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Jane

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