



July 6, 2022

Visitor Policy Update – Vaccination Status

Dear Family and Friends,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the County has been working with the Province, Public Health, staff, residents, friends and family to keep everyone safe during this challenging time. We are extremely grateful to everyone for their co-operation on all the safety protocols that have been put in place over the past two years – we know it's been difficult on everyone.

When provincial restrictions on visitors to our facilities were lifted last year, the County was pleased to welcome vaccinated family and friends back into our Homes to see their loved ones. In light of recent changes to our directives from the Province, we are pleased to be able to admit visitors **to our Retirement Home and Supportive Housing** regardless of their vaccination status, effective immediately.

COVID-19 remains a cause for concern, particularly for our vulnerable population, and there are emerging concerns of a summer wave to come. Out of an abundance of caution, we continue to abide by heightened restrictions to ensure that we keep COVID-19 out of our facilities and keep our residents, visitors and staff safe. All visitors entering our facilities must adhere to any current surveillance screening and testing in place, as required by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, Medical Officer of Health or local Public Health unit. Mandatory masking at all times within our facilities also remains in effect.

Given the health risks to our seniors, and to help avoid outbreaks in our Homes, we encourage Essential Care Givers and General Visitors who are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines to limit visits to residents' units and avoid all common areas and interactions with other individuals in the Home. Please note that during outbreak of a disease of public health significance, an epidemic, or a pandemic, general visitation may be restricted.

The County continues to work closely with Public Health and the Province to ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect our staff, residents, friends and family. We will continue to review and adapt our policies and best practices based on the available information and in line with current regulations. We thank everyone for continuing to follow the guidelines to keep all of us safe.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Pauzé

Director, Seniors Services

County of Simcoe, Long Term Care and Seniors Services