

Dear Families & Friends,

You will be aware of the announcement made yesterday by our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister of Health Adrian Dix regarding changes to the visiting parameters in long-term care facilities **effective Monday, July 19th**.

I attended a meeting this morning with Island Health and there remain some outstanding clarifications which will be forthcoming next week.

What we do know:

1. There is no requirement to schedule Social Visits and Outings after July 18th.
 2. **Fully-vaccinated against COVID – 19 means: having received 2 doses of the vaccine a minimum of 14 days prior to visiting.**
 3. The only time fully-vaccinated visitors are not required to wear a mask is when alone with loved ones or on the Blondin Green.
 - The masks provided are to be worn by all visitors when in common areas and moving about the building.
 - When care staff enter a resident's room, visitors are asked to put their mask on.
 4. All non-fully vaccinated or non-vaccinated visitors must wear a mask at all times and must not eat or drink while visiting residents.
 5. The Visitor Greeting, Screening, and Sign-in processes will continue.
 - Proof of vaccination must be provided.
 - Temperature checks will continue.
 6. When undertaking an outing, residents are to be picked up from their rooms.
 7. Appointments requiring HandyDart transportation will continue as currently arranged.
 8. Visiting Hours are not yet finalized and, until further notice, they will be from 9 am to 5 pm daily, including Sundays beginning July 24th.
 - You will be notified when evening visits will commence (this requires Greeter positions to be staffed).
 9. Visitors are requested to continue good infection control prevention practices including frequent hand hygiene and maintaining social distancing from other residents and staff.
 10. On-site large group resident activities will resume over the summer.
 - Visitors are **NOT** permitted to attend **indoor** activities.
 - Visitors may attend **outdoor** activities.
 11. Chapel services will resume on July 24th.
 12. There will NOT be designated visiting areas on the Main Floor.
 - Please do not move the tables placed in the Village Square. The partitions will be removed.
 13. Our wonderful Volunteers will begin to return on-site on July 19th.
 - They must be fully-vaccinated.
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- ❖ With thanks for your continued support of our visiting protocols.
 - ❖ Thank you for your patience during the first week of 'opening-up'.
 - Our Greeters will need to collect your vaccination information.
 - There may be periods of time when there is higher than usual traffic entering the building.
 - ❖ Our Greeters are appreciative of your patience and understanding.
 - They do not make the 'rules', however, they are responsible for carrying them out per our public health officials' directives and we appreciate visitors not 'shooting the messenger'.

As more information is made available from the Ministry of Health, we will inform you. This is very welcomed news and we are thrilled for our residents and their families and friends.

With warm regards,
Sara