

## **Family Information Update - *December 29, 2021***

- Omicron Variant Update
- Visitor Restrictions (*as per December 24th communication*) - **effective immediately**
- Day Passes on Hold

### **Omicron Variant (of COVID-19) Update:**

The Omicron variant of the COVID-19 infection is highly contagious, with faster spread compared with previous COVID virus variants. With its increased communicability, the incidence of the Omicron variant in the community continues to increase exponentially, and the reported cases are an underestimate due to lack of testing capacity.

We have 3 residents on LTSE, and 4 on LSSE who have tested positive. Control measures are in place on both units, including closure to admissions, and enhanced testing. Residents will not be transferred off the unit unless required for an alternate level of care (e.g., hospital admission), in which case all appropriate precautions will be put into place. All affected residents are currently doing well.

### **Immediate Visitor Restrictions**

The safety of our residents is our priority and as an interim measure, we are moving ahead to restrict all routine visitation to the Veterans Centre, with the exception of essential care partners (essential as defined by the care team) or visitation of residents who are at the end of life. Your care team will contact the families of residents who require an essential care partner to make arrangements. Otherwise, all visitation is paused for the time being. Teams will continually reassess each resident, and the need for an essential care partner visit(s). We will be implementing testing for any essential care givers – details to come shortly.

### **Day Passes**

At this time, day passes will be placed on hold until further notice.

### **New Year Family Guest Meals**

New Year family guest meals are cancelled given the recent outbreaks and visitation directions.