

# FAMILY INFORMATION UPDATE

March 15, 2022

- General Visiting Resumes
- Vaccination & Rapid Antigen Testing Requirements for Visitors
- Outdoor Visiting Requirements
- Overnight / Extended Absences
- Programming & Social Activity Planning

Dear Families,

Following Karen Morris' retirement, we are actively recruiting a new Manager for the Office of the Resident and Family Experience, and will introduce the new individual once confirmed.

Please find the *Family Information Update* below. If you have any questions, please reach out to your loved one's care team.

Thank you,

*Sylvia Brachvogel, Operations Director*  
*Dr. Jocelyn Charles, Medical Director*

With the Omicron wave receding, the Veterans Centre – in line with the province's direction and the advice of our expert Infection Prevention and Control team – will be taking the following steps to ease measures that have been in place for this most recent wave of the pandemic.

As always, decisions to implement changes are always based on the careful balancing of measures that are still needed to reduce COVID-19 risk with the importance of overall health, well-being and quality of life for our residents, and reflect where we are in the pandemic.

# OPENING UP ACCESS WITHIN THE VETERANS CENTRE: *Effective immediately*

## General Visiting Resumes:

- General visitors, including children under the age of 5, may begin to visit again (please see testing status and vaccination requirements below which remain in place).
- Up to a **maximum of 4 visitors at a time** may visit a resident inside.
- All visitors still need to wear a mask at all times when in our facility (except for visitors under 2 years of age).
- Physical distancing is not required for visits.
- Visitors may accompany a resident for dining with a mask on, but may not eat with the resident (this includes in the room, in the dining room, or Sunny's cafeteria).

## Vaccination & Testing Requirements for Visitors:

- All visitors are expected to show proof of full vaccination (at least 2 doses) to be able to enter our facility (exception: children under age of 5, compassionate visits at end of life).
- Indoor Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) visit testing requirements remain the same as previously communicated:
  - Regular/frequent visits (multiple days each week): *testing required 2 times per week on separate days.*
  - Visits twice a week on consecutive days: *testing required on the first day each week.*
  - Visits 1-2 days each week or less, not on consecutive days; *testing is required for every visit.*

## Outdoor Visits:

- Weather allowing, outdoor visits are possible, space permitting.
- If the visitor arranges with the resident / care team to meet at the L Wing entrance to go around the Sunnybrook campus for an outdoor visit only, Rapid Antigen Testing is not required. However, if you need to enter the building past the screening entrance for any reason, Rapid Antigen Testing requirements are in place.

### **Overnight / Extended Absences:**

All residents who are eligible, can again go on social overnight absences, regardless of vaccination status (post-absence testing requirements remain).

### **Programming & Social Activities:**

- We are able to begin expanding the number of residents across units who can be together for some of our programming. Stay tuned for information from your unit about upcoming events your resident's unit can attend.
- We will continue to be very mindful to avoid crowding, and ensure that residents will be able to wear a mask to the event, if that is their preference.