

Family update #135

December 20, 2021

Dear family and friends,

Christmas is around the corner. We are reminded of God’s presence in our lives and grateful for all the gifts this year has offered. I know residents and families are looking forward to visiting one another and sharing in the love and joy of the season.

We have several updates to share with you.

CMOH Visitation Update

Last Friday the Chief Medical Officer of Health sent a letter to all continuing care operators in the province with a change in the screening process for visitors and volunteers, given that Omicron has shown to spread more quickly than the Delta variant.

Effective immediately, all visitors and volunteers who have had known or probable close contact with any COVID-19 case are not permitted to enter our centres for 14 days from last known contact, regardless of the vaccination status of the visitor or volunteer. The Chief Medical Officer of Health has made it clear that this is an interim, precautionary measure to prevent Omicron from being introduced in continuing care centres.

The definition of close contact is face-to-face contact within two metres for 15 minutes or longer, direct physical contact (such as hugging), and/or contact with infectious bodily fluids. The definition of probable contact is close contact with a confirmed case, exposure to a known outbreak, or lab exposure to biological material known to contain COVID-19.

Visitation Guidelines Reminder

Partially vaccinated or unvaccinated visitors (only permitted for essential visits)	Fully vaccinated visitors
Pre-booking required three business days ahead by emailing chfamilyvisit@wingkei.org for Crescent Heights or gfamilyvisit@wingkei.org for Greenview	No pre-arrangement required
Visits will take place in a designated location with a limit of two visitors at a time per resident	Visits can take place in resident rooms with a limit of two visitors at a time per resident
Children under 12 are not permitted to visit	Children under 12 are not permitted to visit

Holiday Reception and Screening Hours

A reminder of our reception hours over the holiday season:

- December 24, 27, 28, and 31—reception will be open from 8 am to 6 pm

- December 25, 26, and January 1, 2022—reception will be closed; please visit when screeners are available between 9 am and 4 pm

Holiday Chapel Visits

Many families enjoy gathering in the chapel during the holidays season. Chapels will be open for residents and families from December 20 to January 3 during normal visiting hours. *Please note only visitors who are fully vaccinated can use the chapel space for visits.*

On statutory holidays (December 25, December 26, and January 1), you will need to sign up to spend time in the chapel. You can sign up on the sheet posted on the chapel door or email chfamilyvisit@wingkei.org for Crescent Heights and gvfamilyvisit@wingkei.org for Greenview by noon on December 24 to book a time for those specific days. On non-statutory holiday days, the chapel is available on a first come, first serve basis.

We ask that you follow the guidelines below to ensure safe visitation and prayers in the chapel:

- Enjoy visits with up to four visitors (above the age of 12) per resident at a time
- Enjoy a maximum of a one-hour visit
- Ensure there are no more than four groups of visitors in the chapel at a time
- Sign your loved one out on the unit whiteboard and take them to the chapel for the visit (we ask that only one family member go upstairs to bring your loved one to the chapel)
- Help keep the chapel clean and tidy during and after your visit
- Keep your mask on, even when taking photos
- Refrain from taking food in the chapel

Booster doses

Earlier last week, the provincial government announced that all Albertans above the age of 50 and those who work in health care can receive the third dose of the vaccine provided six months has passed from the second dose. If you are eligible to receive the third dose, please do so by contacting your pharmacy. The booster is necessary for added protection against COVID.

Rapid test kits

The provincial government also announced that rapid antigen test kits are now available free of charge at pharmacies or AHS clinics. The kits contain five swabs. You can pick up kits on behalf of your family or household members providing you have their Alberta healthcare number. Please do the test as necessary, especially when the chance of exposure to unvaccinated individuals is increased. See alberta.ca/CovidRapidTests for a list of pick-up locations.

Social gatherings

The provincial government announced the following changes for social gatherings:

- Private indoor social gatherings are no longer limited to only two households
- Private indoor social gatherings can take place with 10 adults (18+); there is no limit on children under 18
- Private indoor social gatherings are permitted for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people up to a maximum 10 adults

The impact of these changes is that staff, families, and residents who meet for holiday gatherings may be exposed to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Please continue to make wise decisions and take all necessary precautions, taking the potential impact on residents into consideration.

Upcoming events

Family Town Hall: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 5.30 pm

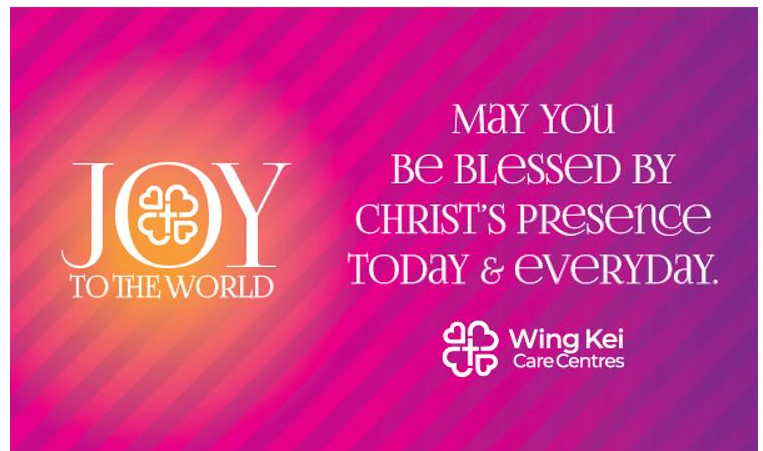
Family Orientation: Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 5.30 pm

Stay healthy and happy

Christmas is a time to celebrate God's love, a time for families and friends to gather and enjoy good cheer. Please continue to stay healthy and safe and enjoy this wonderful, love-filled season!

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on
whom his favor rests.*

~ Luke 2:14



With gratitude,

Kathy Tam
Chief Executive Officer