

## Family update #136

December 24, 2021

Dear family and friends,

Christmas Eve is a magical day, with anticipation of the warmth, cheer, and miracle of Christmas Day. May Christ's presence be with you today and always.

We have several updates to share with you.

### COVID-19 Update

One staff member on the third floor at Greenview Long Term Care was diagnosed with COVID-19 on December 23. The individual last worked on December 19, was asymptomatic while at work, developed symptoms the next day, and has been isolating at home since then. Alberta Health Services Communicable Disease Control has determined that the centre is not on outbreak.

As a precautionary measure, we will be rapid testing all residents on the affected unit and will monitor them closely for symptoms. As a further precaution, we ask families to limit visitation on the third floor of Greenview Long Term Care to essential visits only. Residents in other units can continue to receive visitors as outlined in the [Family Update #135](#).

### Updated Protocols

Yesterday, the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a new order (CMOH 58-2021) to all continuing care operators in the province with a change in the screening process for residents and staff, as Omicron cases continue to rise rapidly throughout the country and globally.

**Effective immediately, all residents who have either been in close contact with someone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis and/or residents returning from an outing 24 hours or longer must:**

- Be actively screened for symptoms every day for 14 days following the close contact and/or outing
- Wear a surgical mask while in common areas, except while eating or drinking, for 14 days following the close contact and/or outing
- Take rapid tests on days 1, 3 and 7 following the close contact and/or outing

As we have learned since the onset of the pandemic, we must work together and support one another to navigate the ever-evolving situation with COVID. We are following all public health protocols, our team is being diligent in all their interactions both inside and outside Wing Kei, and we ask that you too be extremely cautious in your interactions and decisions, including the risks before taking your loved one out of our centres for gatherings.

**A reminder to all visitors, if you have had known or probable close contact with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will not be permitted to enter our centres for 14 days from last known contact, regardless of your vaccination status.**

The definition of a close contact is someone who, without consistent and appropriate use of PPE, provides care to, lives with, or has close physical contact with a person with COVID-19 or has come into contact with the infectious body fluids of a person with COVID-19. 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.

### Booster Doses

Earlier this week, the provincial government announced that **all Albertans above the age of 18 can receive the third dose of the vaccine provided five months have passed from the second dose**. If you are eligible to receive the third dose, please do so by contacting your pharmacy or book an appointment with an AHS clinic. Visit [alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx](https://alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx) for more information. The booster dose is critical for added protection against the Omicron variant.

### Rapid Test Kits

The provincial government also announced that rapid antigen test kits are 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](https://alberta.ca/CovidRapidTests) for a list of pick-up locations.

### At Home Testing Guidelines

With the anticipated increase in demand for testing given the high transmissibility of the Omicron virus, Alberta Health is requesting that Albertans who develop symptoms use the rapid test at home. This will allow labs to focus on testing for those who work in health care and/or are at higher risk. When you take the test at home:

- If you test **positive**, assume it is a confirmation of COVID-19 infection, isolate immediately and notify all of your close contacts
- If you test **negative** and continue to experience symptoms, please test again 24 to 48 hours later. If the second test is negative, isolate until symptoms are resolved

### Stay healthy and happy

Please heed the provincial government's advice and request to minimize your interactions starting now and for the coming days. Omicron is spreading so quickly; the chance of transmitting it is substantially higher than with Delta. Please do limit your gatherings and interactions and take every precaution you can to healthy and safe.

Enjoy this wonderful, love-filled season—whether you are seeing your family in person, at a distance, or virtually. Let us share and embrace God's love.

*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
~ Isaiah 9:6*

With gratitude,

Kathy Tam  
Chief Executive Officer