



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: December 18, 2023

To: Family Members and Visitors

C.C: Resident Council President
Family Council President
Union Presidents
Administrator

From: Laura MacDermaid, Director, LTC & Services for Seniors

Subject: A Few Important Reminders During the Holiday Season

The Regional
Municipality of Durham
Social Services

605 ROSSLAND RD. E.
LEVEL 1
PO BOX 623
WHITBY, ON L1N 6A3
CANADA

905-666-6239
1-800-372-1102

durham.ca

Laura MacDermaid
Director, Long-Term Care
and Services for Seniors

The holiday season is well underway, and we hope you and your families are finding ways to celebrate safely together. From all of us at the Region of Durham Long-Term Care Homes, we wanted to say thank you for your partnership this year.

Based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of LTC announced enhanced masking measures for non-outbreak situations that were put into effect as of November 7, 2023. At that time, it was strongly recommended that visitors and caregivers wear masks in resident areas indoors except when with the resident in the resident's room or when eating or drinking with the resident in communal spaces. Despite the moderate to high level of community transmission, this Ministry recommendation has not changed.

Wearing masks and socially distancing has been shown to reduce transmission of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19. Many of our residents are frail and vulnerable to infection, so I would again strongly encourage you to wear a mask in the home, stay home if not feeling well, wash your hands frequently and limit your travel around the home. By doing your part, you are helping to keep residents and staff safe, which will reduce the chance of the home going into outbreak.

Holiday time is a time when families want to acknowledge the hard work of the staff in the home. Please note that we are not able to accept individual gifts. A simple card or thank you goes a long way. If you do want to bring in treats for staff, they should be individually wrapped and we will take them to the staff areas to enjoy, as food is not permitted at the nursing stations. If you have any questions about this, please speak to a member of management.

Finally, if you are taking your loved one off the home area or out of the home, please ensure this is communicated to the nursing staff on the home area so we know who is out.

We look forward to 2024 and what it will bring. Until then, we wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!