

UPDATE: NEW ANTIGEN TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CAREGIVERS

As part of the provincial government's plan to protect long-term care settings they have announced further action to ensure the health and safety of staff and residents, and homes are now required to meet the following requirement:

- Non-vaccinated essential caregivers are now required to perform antigen testing three days per week (previously two days per week). This testing will continue to be performed at an assessment centre or on-site.
- Non-vaccinated essential caregivers with occasional entry (fewer than 3 times per week) must be tested on day of visit (test valid for 48hrs)
- Non-vaccinated general visitors must be tested on day of visit (test valid for 48hrs)

Additional requirements include:

- Mandating required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine for all staff, students, and volunteers as of November 15, 2021, or proof of a valid medical exemption. Those who do not have all required doses or a valid medical exemption by the deadline will not be able to enter a long-term care home to work.
- Homes will begin randomly testing fully vaccinated individuals, including staff, students, volunteers, caregivers and visitors, to help detect possible breakthrough cases of COVID-19 as early as possible.

While we recognize new restrictions continue to be challenging for our residents and their loved ones, we ask for your understanding as we navigate them together.

Our focus continues to be on providing the high-quality care that our residents and families expect from us as we help our community through this pandemic while following all guidelines of the Ministry of Long Term Care and Public Health directives to ensure everyone's safety.

Thank you for your continued support.

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