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December 16, 2020

**To all Residents, Essential Caregivers, Families and Team Members,**

The past nine months have been very difficult. Everyone has made significant sacrifices to keep our campus safe. We express our most sincere gratitude.

We understand our guidelines have been rigorous, and we continue to be hyper-aware of risks to our communities. To date, we have been very fortunate our strategy of prevention has been effective. To that end, I would like to remind everyone the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care requirements and restrictions related to covid-19 remain in place.

This means that this Christmas will be different for all of us, as we continue to follow the Ministry Directive, Public Health recommendations, and the restrictions resulting from our Public Health Unit Regional Level of Red (Control).

***Long Term Care and Retirement Home***

Residents of long-term care and retirement homes are not permitted to leave the premises. As per the Ministry Directive, absences are only allowed for medical appointments and must be approved by the Home. If you decide to leave the campus, re-entry will be based on an individual conversation with the Executive Director; testing criteria prior to returning may be initiated.

Fairview Apartments (see separate letter).

***Essential Caregivers and Team Members***

Thank you for your diligence - each day you wear your mask and goggles, cohort from your friends and peers, stay away when you feel unwell and each week, you get tested.

Due to the escalation of transmission of covid-19 in the community, specifically LTC and RH, I emphasize the need to follow Public Health guidelines and limit your holiday celebrations to your immediate household.

Also, we are asking that if you are in contact with anyone who works in an affected workplace, let our team know so we can determine the risk level and plan how to keep you and our residents safe.

We are grateful, at time of writing, one essential caregiver, at a time, may come into the home. Be sure to consider your testing schedule throughout the season, especially if you plan to come in on Christmas day. Our Region continues to be in Level of Red (Control), which means all caregivers must provide proof of a negative covid-19 test result in the past week, and verbally attest to not subsequently testing positive. Make sure you will have a current COVID negative test on the day you wish to visit.

I understand that these measures may seem stringent. As a member of the Emergency Health Control Response team, Ontario Health Team, I have the privilege of representing long-term care at the round tables and health forums. These next few weeks are crucial; our region is extremely vulnerable - there is spread throughout long term care homes, retirement homes, schools, industry and the community. Our regional hospitals are at capacity. The need to stay apart, is paramount.

Finally, I need to note the above information is subject to change if the Region would be placed into lock down status.

On behalf of the Leadership Team, thank you for your continued diligence, collaboration and commitment. Let's be safe and well together this holiday season.

With kindness,

Elaine Shantz, CEO