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January 7th, 2021

The past ten months have been incredibly difficult for long-term care and retirement. Unfortunately, with the start of the new year Public Health is reporting the highest levels of **covid-19** since the start of the pandemic and an escalation in the number of long-term care homes in outbreak across the province.

This trend is also true for the Waterloo Region.

Since the start of the pandemic, Fairview has maintained rigorous protocols to protect the residents, tenants and staff within our Community. We have been fortunate these strategies have been effective.

It is with this spirit and out of an abundance of caution, **starting Friday, January 8th, 2021**, additional protocols are being implemented across the Community. These measures are above the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care requirements and restrictions, and are being implemented to limit potential transmission.

Essential Caregivers: All visits are paused until January 31st (with the exception of residents at end-of-life, as directed by the Executive Director). As the community continues to be separated, this includes residents/tenants of the Apartments and Suites.

As per Directive #3 from the Ministry of Health, "Visiting policies are informed by the ongoing covid-19 situation in the community and the Long-Term Care Home and be flexible to be reassessed as circumstances change".

The devastating impact of an outbreak within the Community is even greater than before. The protection of our residents and staff continues to be paramount. If an outbreak is declared, it directly impacts vaccinations. Public Health has advised that Fairview long-term care residents will receive the Pfizer vaccine next week; and second vaccinations three weeks later.

It is for these reasons, we are taking the necessary steps to pause visiting. We appreciate your understanding of this difficult decision.

We emphasize our gratitude for your continued support as we continue to travel this journey. To all the Essential Caregivers joined the team in receiving their initial vaccination, thank you for your leadership. Together, we are closer than ever to reaching a pivotal point of stopping the spread of covid-19.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In Kindness,

Elaine Shantz
CEO

Steve Pawelko
Executive Director