

# Memo



**Date:** December 15, 2021

**To:** Valleyview Families, Residents & Staff

**From:** Elizabeth Bryce, Administrator

**Cc:** Valleyview Leadership Team

**RE:** **ENHANCED MEASURES FOR LONG TERM CARE IN RESPONSE TO COVID 19**

**Priority:** High

Based on the recommendations from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of Long-Term Care is implementing temporary enhanced measures in light of the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

These temporary enhanced and responsive measures are necessary to provide optimal safety and support to residents while balancing the mental and emotional well-being of residents and their families, and to safeguard the staff who are critical to the care of residents.

Enhanced measure requirements include:

## **A. VACCINATIONS**

### **Effective December 15 at 7pm**

**General Visitors must be fully vaccinated (or have a valid exemption)** to come into home, unless visiting a resident receiving end of life care.

**Children under 5 years of age who are unable to receive the COVID 19 vaccine will be unable to come into home at this time.**

### **Effective 12:01 a.m. on Friday December 17, 2021**

**Current Unvaccinated Essential Caregivers must provide proof of a first dose of vaccine (or a valid exemption) by December 20, 2021 to enter home,** unless visiting a resident receiving end of life care.

**Essential caregivers will have till February 21, 2022 to show proof of all required doses.**

**\*\*UNTIL FULLY VACCINATED, ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS WILL BE LIMITED TO VISITING RESIDENT IN THEIR ROOM ONLY.**

**\*\* ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS DESIGNATED AFTER DECEMBER 14, 2021 ARE REQUIRED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE HOME.**

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## **Third Booster Dose**

All residents, staff and caregivers are strongly urged to receive a third booster dose at least six months have passed since your last dose as the latest available evidence shows that three doses of vaccine are more effective against the Omicron variant than two doses.

To book appointments can go book an appointment on the provincial [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#), by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900, or through [select pharmacies](#) and primary care settings.

We are planning to coordinate with Public Health more onsite vaccine clinics.

**Effective 12:01 a.m. on Friday, December 17, 2021**

## **B. SURVEILLANCE TESTING**

**All fully vaccinated staff, students, volunteers, and caregivers** will **antigen test twice per week**. (Please note: frequency is subject to change (dependent of risk factors))

**Fully vaccinated General visitors and support workers,** require proof of negative rapid and/or PCR test upon entry, taken the day of the visit onsite, or on a previous day.

**Unvaccinated general visitors for end of life care and support workers** require proof of negative rapid and/or PCR test upon entry, taken the day of the visit onsite, or on a previous day.

## **C. VISITING**

### **Indoor visits:**

- **Up to two people per resident at a time (includes caregivers)**.
- Residents can designate a maximum of two caregivers (unless more than two caregivers were already designated prior to December 14, 2021).

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**Outdoor visits at premise (where feasible) – dependent on weather and health of resident):**

- **Up to four people per resident at a time (includes caregivers).**
- Unvaccinated general visitors are permitted to visit residents outdoors where feasible, after being tested or showing proof of a negative test from the previous day.

**Virtual visits:**

- To arrange virtual visits, please contact David Kim at [dkim@vvres.org](mailto:dkim@vvres.org) and/or Recreation Office Ext.1111
- Will require 72 hours notice to schedule these visits

## **D. ABSENCES**

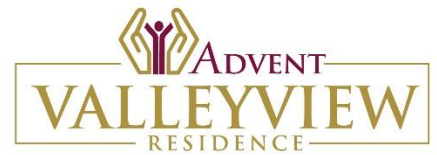
**Day absences:**

- Day absences for social purposes are permitted for **fully vaccinated residents only.**
- **Requirements upon return:**
  - Active screening of resident upon return
  - Rapid test AND PCR test on day 3 following absence, followed by PCR test on Day 7. No isolation is required unless positive result is received.
  - If known exposure to a case, PCR test on day 1 and day 7 and isolate until a negative result is confirmed Day 7

**Overnight absences:**

- **Overnight absences for social purposes are being suspended,** regardless of vaccination status.
- Residents who wish to leave the home overnight for social purposes will be temporarily discharged and will need to follow the appropriate discharge process.
- All residents may continue to leave the home for essential, medical or compassionate absences.

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## **E. ACTIVITIES**

- Activities within the home, such as communal dining, social activities, and exercise classes, continue to be permitted.
- Large group activities are discouraged and residents should be cohorted for higher-risk activities, such as dining, singing and dancing.
- Entertainers must demonstrate proof of full vaccination and masked while performing and physically distance from residents. They will be required to antigen test on arrival and wait for result.
- Residents will be required to be physically distanced (maximum 8) in lounge of home area at all times.
- **Special Family gatherings/luncheons suspended at residence at this time.**

Everyone is reminded of the importance of remaining vigilant with Public healthmeasures, both in the home and in the community.

They include:

- Proper Masking over mouth and nose
- Faceshield and/ Eye Goggles at Valleyview for greater protection during care and visit.
- Physical distancing
- Intense handwashing
- Antigen testing when required
- Maintain cohorting
- Enhanced cleaning/disinfecting of rooms and high touch areas
- Stay home when ill and/or possible exposure to symptomatic people with household and/or community.
- Avoid large gatherings in the community – limit 5 persons recommended by Chief Medical Officer of Health

*COVID 19 is evolving, please note directives are subject to change.*