

February 22, 2021

A message for our families

Below is an update on new enhanced measures to protect residents, families, staff, and visitors in our Homes.

Digital Active Screening Solution

Early in the pandemic, we began actively screening everyone coming into our Homes, and we are happy to introduce a new digital, touchless active screening solution to enhance our current process. This new solution is easier and faster, while continuing to ensure everyone remains protected. Everyone who arrives at our Homes will now complete the active screening process on their smartphone. For those who don't own a smartphone, or need assistance, our Home's screener will be happy to help with the process on our tablet.

Through a few simple steps, we can continue to help prevent the spread of infection and keep everyone safe:

1. Scan the QR code (see notes below), fill in contact info and complete the quick screening questionnaire
2. If approved, show the message to the Home's screener
3. Complete a temperature check

Technology Set Up:

1. Android: Make sure the [Google Lens](#) application is downloaded to scan the QR code. Click [here](#) to learn which settings to turn on, depending on the specific android smartphone.
2. iPhone: Go to settings → Select "Camera" → Turn on "Scan QR Codes" (Click [here](#) for more information)

Rapid Testing Program

As mentioned in our previous letter, our Homes will also soon begin using rapid antigen tests for designated family caregivers and general visitors (when allowed). This follows recent updates to the Ministry of Long-Term Care Directive (read the Directive [here](#).) that requires rapid testing be fully operational in our Homes by March 15.

We are working hard on our plans for a smooth implementation, starting with a trial clinic for designated family caregivers this week. While we are in this transition period, proof of a negative PCR test is still required by the Directive to enter our Homes. We will let our families know if/when this changes. In the meantime, we ask that families please continue accessing COVID PCR tests at an assessment centre.

The testing frequency originally outlined in the Directive has changed, and designated family caregivers will now be tested at the same frequency as staff, students, and volunteers. Those who visit their loved one three or more days in a seven-day period will need to be tested up to three times in that period on non-consecutive days. Those who only visit once or twice within a seven-day period will be tested each day of their visit, regardless of whether the two days are consecutive. The rapid test can be administered with a combined swab of throat and both nostrils, a deep nasal swab, or a nasopharyngeal swab.

As we do our part to keep everyone in our Homes safe, we are truly grateful for the ongoing encouragement and support from our families. We are working to finalize our plans and will continue to share updates as we receive more details around the testing requirements.

If you have questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Executive Director of your specific peopleCare Home.