

Dear Residents & Families of Goderich Place Retirement Community,

I wish that I could start this off by saying this is a short message but for today, it is a lengthy one I encourage everyone to read thoroughly as I have some updates I would like to share.

First of all, I hope that all of you are doing well and in good health and continue to keep safe.

I write this letter by way of update of the much-anticipated vaccine clinic that we have confirmed to be hosting, to specifically administer the Bivalent vaccine. The Bivalent vaccine is an updated vaccine product, also known as the bivalent booster, that is more effective against current circulating Omicron strains than the previous vaccine doses, which is very welcome and long anticipated. It is strongly recommended that residents of long-term care, retirement homes, and other congregate living settings receive a bivalent booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine after completion of their primary series to maintain the strongest possible protection against COVID-19.

#### Bivalent Vaccines as Boosters

On September 1, 2022, Health Canada authorized the use of Moderna Spikevax Bivalent COVID-19 vaccine, that targets both the original SARS-CoV-2 variant and Omicron BA.1, as a booster dose in adults 18 years of age or older. The vaccine is designed to protect against both the original variant and Omicron variant of the virus; this may result in stronger protection and immune response against current and future variants and offer more targeted protection against the current Omicron variants compared to the current mRNA vaccines offered.

Eligibility is open to high-risk populations first including residents, staff and essential caregivers of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and other congregate settings.

We also expect a COVID-19 wave later in the fall which will likely be larger and will come at time when many other diseases will be circulating, such as the common cold and flu. Therefore, for those that are at the highest risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 such as residents of long-term care, retirement homes, and other congregate living settings, getting a bivalent booster is recommended as soon as possible to optimize protection.

Any resident that has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccine with the original vaccines is eligible regardless of how many booster doses they've received.

1. The clinic is set for Wednesday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>.
1. The clinic will start at 10:00am
1. This is an approximate time. Our team will alert you if they're running behind.
1. Closer to the date of this clinic we will assign you an approximate timeframe as to when your floor will be attended.

1. If you have a conflict with this date, please inform nursing right away so we can discuss alternate arrangements.
1. This clinic is specifically for residents only and if there are extra doses at the end of the clinic, they will be offered to Goderich Place team members first.

  - Individuals must be COVID free for the last 3 months in order to receive their dose

Once receiving the covid vaccine, we will then be administering the flu vaccine. October, 7<sup>th</sup> @ around 1:30. We will ask that all residents stay in their suites for this time, wear a short-sleeved top, and the nurses with a will be around to administer. As per public health, there is no set time interval between the covid vaccine and the flu shot.

I have received some questions around the directives with respect to masking in the community for all residents, team members, general visitors and essential caregivers.

At this time and for the foreseeable future, it is mandatory for all team members, general visitors and essential visitors to wear masks in the community at all times, including and especially when providing personal and close contact care. There is no exception to this other than when on a break to eat or if someone needs a break to breath and they are at least six feet away from any other individual. Fitness and physio instructors can take their masks off, as long as they are at minimum 6ft away from the resident.

Masks are not mandatory for residents but highly encouraged to wear in common area's, when participating in activities and when in close contact with others. When a resident is participating in any type of exercise program, they are still encouraged to wear a mask however, chairs are set up in a manner that ensure residents are safely apart. Masks and face shiels are available for anyone at the front desk.

I want to remind everyone, especially visitors, please do not visit with residents inside or outside the community should you have even the mildest of symptoms that could be related to the covid-19 virus. Should you test positive and have visited in the community 5 days prior to testing, please let myself or anyone in our Wellness Department know so we can continue to monitor and possibly test who you were in contact with. Although Public Health has made great efforts to loosen restrictions when someone living or working in the community tests positive for covid, we don't want to run the risk of wide spread and have to shut our operations such as the dining room, general visitors, activities and programs for our residents that reside here. We have seen over the last few months so much participation in activities and programs, dining, outings and enjoying the outdoor space we have. We want to continue to keep things positive for everyone here.

I would like to remind everyone that the covid-visiting policy should be followed, I have attached for review. I would also like to remind all visitors that we ask you only come and visit between

the screening hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm. If you need to see your loved ones after these hours, please make arrangements in advance and note that the door will be locked. If staff let you into be screened after hours you must let them know when you want to leave and so the door can be secured.

If you plan on an extended or overnight stay, it must be pre arranged with management.

I want to continue to thank everyone for being especially patient and understanding and encourage you to reach out to me should you have any questions.

Thank you so much!

Annette, Shannon and Jenni

