



# Elgin County Long-Term Care Homes

## MEMO

**TO:** All Bobier Villa, Elgin Manor and Terrace Lodge Residents and Families  
**DATE:** December 29, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Additional Measures for LTC Homes – COVID-19 Pandemic

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Dear Residents and Families,

On December 28, 2021, the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) sent out updated direction for “Pandemic Response: Additional Measures” for LTC Homes related to current local and provincial COVID-19 activity, in particular the Omicron variant activity.

### Further Enhanced Measures

To continue to ensure safety for residents and reduce the risk of COVID-19 entering and spreading in homes the interim measures put into effect on December 17, 2021 have been further enhanced. Effective **December 30, 2021** at 12:01am:

- **Access to long-term care homes by general visitors will be paused, including for outdoor visits.** Following all screening and testing requirements, general visitors will continue to be permitted to enter the home to visit a resident receiving end of life care.
- **Day absences for all residents for social purposes will be paused.** All essential, medical or compassionate absences will continue to be permitted.

Currently designated caregivers continue to be able to come into homes following screening and testing requirements with a maximum of two per resident at a time. We will notify caregivers of any changes to these measures based on outbreak status of the Home. We recognize the impact these temporary measures have on residents, their families, and homes. The Ministry and the Chief Medical Officer of Health will continue to review policies and monitor all available evidence. At this time, it is anticipated that these additional enhanced temporary measures will be required for at least the next 6 to 8 weeks.

Please review the attached documents in full for details regarding the additional enhanced pandemic measures and please speak to a member of the Homes management team if you have any questions:

- [Key Messages to Support Residents and Families 2021.12.28](#)
- [What Residents Can Expect 2021.12.28](#)

Additional information, not included in the above documents, includes the following:

- As an additional precautionary measure against the highly transmissible Omicron variant, protective eyewear is **required** by all staff, visitors, support workers, and volunteers who enter the Home.
- Rapid antigen testing results must be complete before entering the LTC Home; essential caregiver visitors are encouraged to adjust their visit time to include 15 minutes for processing of rapid antigen test results.
- Booster doses are available to essential caregiver visitors, provided that it has been a period of three (3) months since your second dose. A booster dose is strongly recommended for protection against the Omicron variant and can be booked online through your local public health.
- Visitors are required to wear their mask and eyewear at all times, and, as such will not be permitted to eat or drink while in the Home. Essential caregiver visitors may attend the designated area to provide meal time support to their loved one.
- Essential caregiver visitors have specific timelines to achieve full vaccination – as such, until the essential caregiver is fully vaccinated, within the required timelines, visits will be restricted to the resident's room for these visits.

We know the timing of these changes, during the holiday season, is difficult news for residents and families. Homes staff will do their best to reassure and provide support to residents and families as we work to implement these temporary required measures to support resident, visitor and staff safety and well-being. We encourage you to visit within the updated guidelines and, if you have any questions, please speak to a registered staff member or manager!

Thank you!

Michele Harris, Director of Homes and Seniors Services

Terri Benwell, Administrator, Bobier Villa & Elgin Manor

Christine Leonard, Administrator, Terrace Lodge