

GES Bulletin

14 January 2022

Enhanced Surveillance

As Omicron continues to surge across the country, in BC and in our own community, many of us will most likely know people who have recently contracted COVID. We have no concerns regarding any of our Residents; however, several of our staff have over the past week tested positive. All are doing well, and, in all cases, the exposure was outside of work.

Until the community transmission of COVID subsides, we will remain on Enhanced Surveillance and continue to be hyper-vigilant in following all of the COVID prevention protocols and directives including screening for symptoms and ensuring all layers of protection are in place.

Despite several staff members being off, Resident care and services have been maintained. I cannot express strongly enough my gratitude and appreciation for our team, who continue to pull together, pick up extra shifts, extend their hours and demonstrate such dedication and resilience. I also commend the team members who identified symptoms early, accessed testing, and applied all the layers of protection effectively to mitigate risks at work.

Visiting at Greenwoods – Designated Social Visitors

When the changes to the visiting protocols were announced on the 31 December, the timeframe for the restrictions to essential visitors and the requirement for rapid tests was set as 1 January to 18 January. Although we have not received formal notice, we are anticipating that the restrictions will continue beyond the 18th and until the risk of community transmission of COVID decreases.

Thank you for your patience while we implemented the rapid testing protocol, and we are now prepared to welcome designated social visitors back as of Monday 17 January. All Residents can have one designated social visitor. This social visitor designation is in addition to the designated essential visitor that some Residents may have.

At this stage, we are not requiring designated social or essential visitors to schedule visits. In discussions with Erica and Barb, we've decided to see how the flow of visitors goes at the beginning of next week. We'll re-introduce scheduled visits only if we are not able to accommodate the testing of visitors as they arrive.

Social visitors do need to be designated and we are restricted to one social visitor at this time. Please let Erica know who the designated social visitor is by emailing her at: erica.innes@greenwoodseldercare.org or call 250 537 5561 ext. 230.

The process for all visitors is as follows:

- When you arrive at Greenwoods, please proceed as usual with washing your hands, donning a fresh mask, and undergoing the screening and temperature check with the Resident Ambassador.
- Once past the screening, the Resident Ambassador will lead you through the rapid antigen test. The test involves swabbing both nostrils with a Q-tip type swab and placing it in a testing vile. The Resident Ambassador will then complete the tests. Results are known within 15 minutes.
- While waiting for the test result, you are welcome to wait in the Greenwoods lobby (space permitting) or in your car.
- Once a negative result is confirmed, the visit can proceed.
- A reminder, that masks must once again be worn for the entire duration of the visit even if in the privacy of the Resident's room.
- In the event of a positive result to the rapid test, you will be directed to return home, self-isolate and follow the directions of public health.
- Anyone receiving a positive result is encouraged to report via the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) reporting portal. The Resident Ambassador can assist with this reporting if requested.

Please click on the following links for comprehensive information on the BC Centre for Disease website:

- For information on the [Rapid COVID-19 Point-of-Care Testing Program](#)
- For information on the [Rapid Antigen Tests](#)
- For information on [What To Do in The Event of a Positive Rapid Antigen Test](#)

The infectious nature of Omicron is daunting; however, our many layers of protection including hand washing, physically distancing, limiting social contacts, and wearing masks are still very effective at stopping the transmission. We are looking forward now in a sense of weeks or perhaps months to when COVID is endemic and managed much like the seasonal influenza. Until then, please stay home if you are feeling at all unwell, continue with all the layers of protection, and access booster vaccinations when eligible.

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

Warmest regards
Aletha

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