

## GES Bulletin

### 6 May 2022

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#### Looking Forward

It's interesting looking back at previous GES Bulletins. The first one was sent on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and announced the closing of the community programs, introduced the designation of essential visitors and emphasized the need for connections. Connection through communication, connection with loved ones and connection with the changing pandemic world.

By May 2020, we were 100 days into the pandemic response, over a month into our lockdown and had closed our doors to all visitors to Greenwoods and Braehaven. Mother's Day that year was celebrated through spa treatments provided by team members volunteering their time and with an ice cream tea.

By May 2021, restrictions were still in place, but residents were receiving their second vaccination doses, we were welcoming back more visitors with scheduled social visits and looking forward to further easing of the COVID protocols. There was even that brief window last July when everyone, including team members, were permitted to remove the masks. It felt like we were nearing the end.

The COVID challenges continued with the arrival of evolving variants and, as we saw with the outbreak at Greenwoods this past March, COVID can still hit hard even though thankfully the severity of the disease is now much milder. Lessons learned at Greenwoods in March helped us contain the spread of the virus when we had some cases at Braehaven in April. We are also much better prepared for future occurrences.

We had all hoped for a more certain move into a post-COVID world, but the nature of this virus and the variants mean we will continue to live with COVID and respond to it as best we can. And we now have the knowledge, experience, and skills to respond safely and reasonably.

Although COVID will continue to circulate in our world, we are looking forward to resuming a balance of respectful existence, acceptance, and management of its impact. The response to future COVID exposures in Greenwoods and Braehaven will balance the need for continued robust infection prevention and control measures while ensuring the Residents, their friends and families, and the Team enjoy quality of living, safe care and services, and connections with what brings meaningfulness and joy.

We will be holding a Residents, Family and Friends Zoom meeting on Thursday 12 May at 1.00pm. This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss what our guidelines will be going forward in the event of any future COVID exposures as well as to provide updates on non-COVID news and activities.

**Residents, Family and Friends Zoom Meeting  
Thursday 12 May 1.00pm to 2.00pm**

To register, please click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdeqgriJoH9Uscno1sS2s3SDIpQWavtD>

**COVID Vaccination Boosters**

Braehaven and Greenwoods residents received their second booster shots this past Tuesday. Many thanks to the local Public Health Team for coming on site and administering the shots.

**Staffing Challenges**

The pervasive staffing challenges that are impacting all employers are certainly impacting us as well. Additionally, our Team members are understandably tired with all that they have given over the past two years. I continue to be incredibly grateful and impressed with the efforts and teamwork I see especially when we are short staffed. Very regrettably, until we can address these ongoing staffing challenges, we are having to hold our occupancy at Greenwoods at the current level. We are also delaying the long-hoped for re-opening of our Adult Day Program and Community Bathing. We are acutely aware of the needs in the community and will look at expanding our services as soon as we can safely do so.

Thank you for your understanding and the support you provide to the Team.

**Fundraiser**

We are also very grateful for the support from the community. Country Grocer and Island Savings are sponsoring a business team-building event with the proceeds going to the Greenwoods Foundation. Please click here for more information:

[Salt Spring Invitational Disc Golf Tournament](#)

Teams need to be registered by next Wednesday 11 May.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, at 250 537 5561 ext 222 or on my cell 250 538 7828.

Kind regards  
Aletha

Aletha Humphreys  
Executive Director

