

**Greenwood Court**

**90 Greenwood Drive, Stratford, N5A 7W5**

**MEMO: COVID Infection and Prevention Control Update**

**Effective: March 31, 2023**

Good afternoon,

We have received updated guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, about COVID-19 prevention and control changes that will be coming into effect on March 31, 2023. Please refer to the attached Pandemic Response Update from the MLTC for more detailed information.

The changes coming into effect on March 31<sup>st</sup> include:

**One Access Screening Questions and Sign In:** We have initiated a new screening tool for our screening and visitor sign in. Please continue to use the tablet at the front door to access the screening questions. This will be our visitor sign in log as well. Each visitor must complete these questions and fill in their information. Please sign in on the tablet and sign out also. Instructions will be sent to you for your review.

**Asymptomatic Screen Testing:** will no longer be required. What this means is that staff and visitors (including contractors, volunteers, etc.) will no longer be required to have proof of a negative rapid test result to enter the home. When entering the home, there will no longer be a need to be tested. Staff and residents will still undergo PCR testing when presenting with symptoms.

**Masking:** will continue to be required for all individuals entering the home. It continues to be recommended that visitors wear their mask when they are in a resident's room, but it is not required. We do ask that when staff enter the room, visitors replace their mask during that time. When visitors are in home common areas/halls, masking continues to be required.

**Resident Screening and Daily Temperature Checks:** registered staff will continue to assess each resident once daily at a minimum for signs and symptoms of infection (including COVID-19), but daily routine temperature checks will no longer be required. Registered staff will continue to initiate additional necessary monitoring of residents as required.

**Visitor Screening:** individuals who enter the home will continue to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of infection, however active screening requirements (checking in with screening staff) will no longer be required. We ask that all individuals planning to enter the home are diligent about self-monitoring for potential symptoms, and stay home if they are feeling unwell. This is especially important as restrictions continue to lift.

**Visitors During Outbreaks:** There will no longer be a limit of one visitor at a time per resident during an outbreak, or when a resident is under isolation precautions. Visitors to isolation rooms will continue to be required to wear appropriate PPE while in the resident room. In addition, visitors to isolation rooms



will continue to be required to remain within that resident's room while in the home, to limit the risk of infection transmission.

**Activities/Physical Distancing:** Activities/entertainment will no longer have to be adjusted for physical distancing or participant size. Visitors that are attending activities/entertainment with a resident continue to be required to mask while outside of the resident's room.

**COVID-19 Vaccination:** Vaccination against COVID-19 continues to be encouraged and offered to all eligible individuals residing at Greenwood Court. At this time, there are no vaccination requirements for visitors and staff entering the home. Greenwood Court continues to follow public health recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination and as indicated will continue to offer booster doses to residents/staff. Planning for a clinic in April 2023.

**COVID-19 Daily Outbreak Reporting:** Daily reports to the MOHLTC are no longer required. Homes are to continue routine communication with local public health officials during outbreaks.

**Of note:** while the above changes are coming into effect on March 31<sup>st</sup>, there still may be times that these guidelines require adjustments depending on the current situation within the home. If any changes or adjustments are made to infection prevention and control practices, information about the changes will be clearly communicated.

Please continue to be patient with the staff and leadership team at Greenwood Court while these changes in practice are initiated. As we are all aware, the past three years of the pandemic have been especially difficult for those living, visiting, and working in the LTC sector. While these changes reflect a large shift towards "the way things were" before COVID-19, we understand that they may come with a level of hesitancy or fear about how this will impact this sector. Greenwood Court will continue to promote safe and effective infection prevention and control practices to maintain the safety and well-being for the residents, visitors, and staff within the home during this transition.

Thank you,

Greenwood Leadership Team