
St. Lawrence Lodge COVID-19 Bulletin

Issue Date: April 10, 2020

Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide current information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and to inform people with respect to decisions made by the Home as guided by Public Health and Ministry of Health and Long Term Care policy decisions.

Covid-19 is likely the biggest public health crisis Canada has ever faced. Lives are at stake, including yours and your loved one's. The care and protection of long term care residents – and the dedicated staff who look after them – has become a critical issue in Ontario. As of March 30th, 34 Ontario Long Term Care Homes have confirmed outbreaks of Covid-19, and the numbers are increasing rapidly.

Right now, physical distancing and LTC visitor restrictions are essential in combatting Covid-19. We acknowledge how hard this is for all concerned; however, it is necessary to save lives.

It is up to all of us to take steps that keep our loved ones, ourselves, and our communities safe.

Since we don't yet have a vaccine or cure, the best we have is prevention. We all have a role in preventing the transmission of Covid-19. We can prevent the spread of Covid-19 by washing our hands, avoiding contact with people who are frail and vulnerable, and above all, staying home. We are all in this together.

To help manage this global pandemic, the Ontario Government has issued Directives and Emergency Orders that will help Long Term Care Homes to take the steps they need to respond to, prevent, and alleviate the outbreak of Covid-19 and to provide care to our residents and support for our staff during the pandemic.

Covid-19 News

New Testing Guidance from the Province

- On April 9th, the Province issued new Directives related to the level of testing that is to be carried out in Long Term Care Homes. The highlights include:
 - Any Resident with the following symptoms should be tested:
 - A fever of 37.8 degrees or higher
 - New or worsening respiratory conditions such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, nasal congestion, difficulty swallowing.
 - Evidence of pneumonia.
 - A Resident WITHOUT symptoms who lives in the same room as a Resident who HAS symptoms must be tested, as well.

Current Status

As a result of the expanded screening and testing requirements, the Home reports the following updates, as of April 10th:

Number of Residents With Symptoms to be tested:	Spruce Lodge	3
	Birch Lodge	1
	Pine Lodge	1
Number of Residents Without Symptoms to be tested:	Spruce Lodge	2
	Birch Lodge	1

The primary contact persons for each of these residents have been contacted by the Home to advise them of the situation.

Due to the fact that we have 3 residents on Spruce Lodge showing respiratory symptoms, the District Health Unit has advised of a Respiratory Outbreak for Spruce Lodge only. The Home will be following normal outbreak procedures until the all clear is received from the Health Unit.

Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing of 6 feet between people is highly recommended to prevent the spread of Covid-19. As a result, we have made changes in a number of areas:
 - Activation and Recreation: all large group activities have been cancelled until further notice. Small group activities on the Resident Home Area are limited to 5 Residents at a time.
 - Dining Room: we have adjusted Resident seating arrangements in our dining rooms to promote greater physical distancing for Residents.
 - Menu Selection: we are temporarily changing the daily menu selection. This will start during the week of April 13th. Breakfast will continue to be provided as previously enjoyed. Lunch will consist of one full hot entrée meal (protein, starch, hot vegetable)

and dessert. Dinner will include soup and a lighter fare option, generally a salad plate, sandwich, or hot entrée with a side vegetable or salad, as well as, a dessert. The primary objective with this adjustment is to reduce the close person-to-person interaction required in determining food choice selections prior to the meal being served.

Visitors

- Long Term Care Homes are closed to visitors. Essential visitors are permitted. These people include those visitors who are visiting a gravely ill Resident or those persons who are performing essential clinical health care services. All essential visitors are to be actively screened before entering the building, including temperature checks. If they do not pass the screening, then they are not allowed to enter. Essential visitors attending with gravely ill Residents are limited to one person at a time. All essential visitors are required to wear personal protective equipment while in the building.

Communications With Loved Ones

Our Activation staff have been doing a great job helping residents connect with their loved ones. We have I-phones available should you wish to call, facetime, text, or email with a resident. Contact the Activation Department at 613-345-0255 ext 4118 to coordinate a family session.

There is also a new Facebook Group for St. Lawrence Lodge residents. Let the Activation Department know that you wish to join, give them your email address and they will issue an invitation for you to join the Group.

A thank you is also extended to the Watson family for their kind donation of 2 I-pads for residents to use to connect with their loved ones. We appreciate having this technology available at this critical time!

Personal Protective Equipment Status

We can report that the Home has been able to maintain reasonable levels of personal protective equipment so far. The following companies, individuals, and corporations have been instrumental in helping us to access necessary supplies:

Jeff Earle, Ground Master The Town of Gananoque Canadian Solar Farms
Canarm Tomlinson Construction

Special thanks are extended to these Friends of St. Lawrence Lodge for their assistance.

Kudos Keep Rolling In

I would like to thank the many family members who continue to send us messages of support and encouragement. Your words have a special meaning and are much appreciated by all.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Harrington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Harrington
Administrator