



December 23, 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Sienna Care Communities,

We are all thrilled to see the first vaccine being rolled out across the country and look forward to further approvals and vaccinations as the New Year arrives. In the meantime, we want to ensure we are all vigilant with maintaining guidelines and protocols until we can reduce the potential for spread of the virus. In this memo, we wanted to provide you with a few updates and information prior to the holidays.

Vaccines

As the excitement continues to grow with the vaccine rollout, more long-term care homes are being contacted by their health partners to participate in vaccination clinics in their communities. Our first team members in BC are starting to get their vaccines this week and in Ontario, we have many who were first in line to be vaccinated. Watch as [Bryanna](#) and [Bella](#) talk about their experiences.

At some point soon, we expect that essential caregivers will be added to the list of those who can receive this vaccine. We will share information on how to volunteer as soon as it is available, and in the meantime suggest you contact the Executive Director at your loved one's residence to provide your contact information.

We are also working diligently to prepare for the arrival of the Moderna vaccine which has now been approved by Health Canada, which will allow us to offer vaccines to our residents. We will continue to keep you informed as we learn more.

In the meantime, we know you have many questions about the vaccine – how it works, who gets it first ([ON](#), [BC](#)) and how it impacts access to your loved ones in our care community. We have created a dedicated [COVID-19 Vaccine Response](#) page on our website with videos, linked resources and FAQs, and will update it frequently to keep you informed on the latest developments. [In this video](#), Dr. Allison McGeer provides insights into the vaccination process as well as the new strains of COVID-19 that are emerging.

Mask-Wearing for Residents

Our current policy mandates universal masking for all staff and essential visitors, as well as for both residents and visitors during outdoor/indoor visits, when allowed. Surgical/medical masks are also provided to residents who leave to attend a medical appointment. Effective immediately, residents will be required to wear medical or surgical grade masks when leaving their rooms/suites for any purpose. Areas outside of resident rooms, including hallways, dining rooms, activity rooms, etc., will be viewed as public space and therefore require masks to be worn at all times. Please encourage your loved ones to follow these guidelines as a means of keeping everyone safe.

Provincial Restrictions and Visitor Guidelines

As the country tries to manage the challenges of COVID-19 during this second wave, many provinces are putting restrictions in place to stop the spread. In Ontario, a [province-wide shutdown](#) will take effect Saturday, December 26th scheduled for 14 days in northern Ontario and 28 days for southern Ontario (areas south of Sudbury). In BC, while it is not being called a lockdown, the province has [established similar restrictions](#) to curb social gatherings and other activities that may contribute to the spread of the virus.



When these measures take effect, visitor guidelines will not change, allowing for up to two essential caregivers per resident, visiting one at a time. Residents will also still be allowed to leave for medical appointments only.

We look forward to the day when we can welcome friends and family back into our residences, but must wait on direction from our provincial governments for the vaccines to be fully rolled out. For the foreseeable future, we must all stay vigilant: wash our hands, wear PPE and maintain physical distancing. Your support and adherence to guidelines over the coming weeks is very important, and for that we thank you.