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To All Sienna Long-Term Care Ontario Families,

We are pleased to inform you that the Ontario Government announced today that long-term care residents can once again leave their residences for short-stay and temporary absences. This change is effective immediately.

The new directive allows residents to spend time away from their long-term care homes for day trips or overnight absences. Outings are categorized in two ways:

### **Short-Stay Absences**

These include visits to see family or run errands, as well as outpatient medical visits or emergency room visits that extend over a single night, but where the person is not admitted as an in-patient. For these types of outings, care communities will provide residents with a medical mask to be worn at all times when outside of the home, if tolerated. Residents will also be reminded of the importance of following all public health measures, including physical distancing, handwashing and group sizes according to community. When they return, residents must be actively screened but are not required to be tested or to self-isolate.

### **Temporary Absences**

Residents may also leave for 'temporary' absences of one or more nights. Temporary absences will be at the discretion of the care community and decided on a case-by-case basis based on safety factors like the risk associated with the absence (e.g., for a family weekend vs. a large gathering) and the ability of the home to help residents self-isolate upon return. For the protection of their neighbours, residents who leave on a temporary absence will be required to self-isolate for 14 days when they return to the care community. If a residence makes the decision to deny a temporary absence request, they must communicate their rationale in writing.

Residents in a home area that is currently under confirmed or suspected outbreak are discouraged from leaving their care community.

While we are pleased that this announcement allows for more flexibility of our residents and increased socialization with family and friends, our main priority remains on the health and safety of our residents and team members.

With that in mind, we ask for your patience as we put these new directives into operation while ensuring that infection prevention and control practices are properly maintained.

**The warmth of human connection**

We also ask all family members to support these efforts by following all public health measures, including physical distancing, handwashing and adhering to group sizes according to your community.

Please contact your care community to arrange an outing for your loved one. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Following are links to further details published by the Ministry of Long-Term Care:

- [Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the LongTerm Care Homes Act, 2007](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)