

**Chester Village Family Council Meeting
2022 01 26**

47 Participants

Cynthia Marinelli's Update

COVID-19

- There were 7 resident cases of Covid between Dec. 7th and Dec. 29th
 - All recovered and resolved
 - All infected residents were triple-vaccinated; symptoms were mild
 - Approximately 140 residents have now received a 4th vaccine and Chester is working to give this second booster to all residents who are eligible and give consent.
- Christmas, New Year and Omicron
 - 72 staff tested positive or had close contact with someone positive between December 27th and the present
 - Many had no symptoms, but were required to quarantine at home for 10 days; Some who had quarantined due to close contact, tested positive upon return to work and so required a second quarantine period.
 - The remaining staff stayed long hours to ensure residents were cared for
- Until today, there have been a number of absences – only 6 staff have not returned but will be back Monday, Jan. 31st
- Some Essential Caregivers also tested positive
- Chester was forced to put their “minimum staff” plan in place which caused many changes in caregivers.
- Good News: the outbreak status was cancelled as of Jan. 26th!

Ministry Annual Inspection

- Don't have the written report yet but expecting a good report; there were no negatives in the verbal report.
- Accreditation took place last November – got an additional 3 year accreditation.

Rapid Antigen Testing

- Will continue daily testing until end of February
- It has captured staff positives that wouldn't otherwise be known because many were symptom free
- **Important to wait the 15 min. for test results** – can take longer than 5 min for the positive to show even after the early view looks OK

HEPA Filters

- Got 18 from Ministry
- Helpful in Activation room in each home area
- Others placed in staff room, chapel, etc. including Nursing stations if room is available
- Ministry also provided replacement filters.

Out of Outbreak – Next Steps

- No resident outings yet – Ministry restriction
 - If taken out for overnight stay – they can't come back
 - Hoping it will be lifted soon
 - Many other homes in the province in outbreak and there are deaths so that's a factor

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- Allowing folks to go down to the lobby area but they may not mingle with other families; remember that visitors **cannot** eat or drink
- Regular bath and shower schedule will start up again
- If helping with meals – continue to do this in the resident’s room – will re-evaluate Feb. 7
- If Essential Caregiver comes in several days a week – helps if you take meal to the room for at least some of those days.
- No general visitors – this is also a Ministry restriction
- **2 essential caregivers** can visit at same time when not in outbreak status
- Opening café next week
- Feb. – getting entertainment – by floor and residents only – no family
- The barber – coming Monday
- **3 vaccine doses required as of Jan 28th for all Essential Caregivers**
- Unvaccinated children are high risk and can’t visit
- Golden Care dental – let nurse know to put resident on list for service when clinics resume
- Day visit for medical appointment – not required to quarantine on return (unless visit was to ER)

Gina – will not return until at least June

- Anna is acting director and Alma is covering other things
- Looking to hire a staff educator

Essential Caregiver Registration

- Email Layla@chestervillage.ca to register (she is front desk staff)
- Can have up to 4 per resident – **but** – only 2 can visit at one time

Contacting Management with Questions

- Staff are listed on the website which shows their email and job title
- Please email questions to the appropriate team member
- Can ask front desk who to contact and they will help

Staff Appreciation

- Can go to website and make general donation and indicate that it is for staff
- Gift cards are another good idea – gives them choice
- Next big staff appreciation event is in May during Nursing Week

Report by Lynne Smith – Family Council President

Lynne gave us the following information about a new online support resource being provided by Laura Petta who is a Social Worker with Alzheimer Toronto. Laura spoke to us about her role at a previous meeting and her insight was well- received by those present.

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The Alzheimer Society of Toronto is launching a drop-in support group for caregivers supporting a person living with dementia living in a long-term care home .

This online group will be available to caregivers, Family Councils and social workers who live/work in the M postal code or support a resident located here. Caregivers newly transitioning someone with dementia to long-term care or caregivers struggling with the realities of their person's diagnosis are welcome here.

Each month we will focus on a different theme to guide the conversation. You can see the topics to be discussed listed on the registration page. We will explore the caregivers personal feelings relating to caring for a person living with dementia. Laura will facilitate this group the first Thursday of the month from 5:30-7pm. Should you have any questions please feel free to email her at lpetta@alz.to or call at 416-689-2581.

- *Feb. 3, 5:30 to 7:00 PM is the first meeting – will be monthly thereafter*

Please note that registration is required for this program!

Lynne advised those present to use the link below to get more information and register for this program

<https://alz.to/event/drop-in-long-term-care-home-ltc-caregiver-support-group-online/>

Next Family Council meeting: Wednesday, February 23rd.