

Chester Village Family Council

Minutes: April 6, 2022

Cynthia's Update:

Cynthia reminded us that the Covid protocols for Long-term Care are different from those in the community at large.

For example: - Masking is still required for all visitors at all times and this mandate will probably be extended after April 27th.

- Visitors entering Chester must be fully vaccinated (i.e., 2 doses of vaccine as per Health Canada guidelines).

- Daily screening and testing are still required. The Ministry provides rapid tests at no cost, but Chester must pay for the screener.

Using the screening app provided by Chester helps to keep track of visitors and this information may be required by the Ministry at any time.

Layla has prepared a list of frequent visitors which she can check for proof of vaccination.

Visitors can ask to be added to this list at Reception to save having to show their QR code on each visit.

There are currently no residents with Covid in spite of some staff testing positive which shows that Chester's infection control protocols are keeping transmissions under control.

If a resident tests positive, it is no longer required to shut down an entire unit. A sign will be put on the unit door to alert visitors and the affected resident will be isolated and monitored closely until cleared. Family members will only be informed if their resident is deemed to be at risk.

In recent weeks, more staff, visitors and residents have tested positive...an average of 2 or 3 each week. The positivity rate in the community is at an all-time high of 20%; the number of LTC homes in outbreak has risen dramatically...currently 105. Some persons who have tested positive have had 3 vaccines.

Well over 90% of Chester's residents have had 4 vaccines. 4th doses are now available through Government clinics and some pharmacies for those over 60 who had a 3rd dose more than 5 months ago. There is no plan to hold a clinic at Chester for the 4th dose at this time.

Several family members took the opportunity to pass on their appreciation to Cynthia and all staff members for the work they have done to keep Chester residents safe during the pandemic.

With regard to the visiting pets issue, Morgan and Cynthia have reviewed and updated the existing policy as follows...

Pet owners must provide the following information to Morgan:

Pet's photo and name;

Owner's name and phone number;

Up-to-date vaccination information from a veterinarian (must be updated yearly)

This information will be placed in a binder to be held at Reception.

Pet visits are subject to the following rules:

Pets must be leashed and under control at all times;

Pets must not be allowed to interact with other residents **unless** written permission has been received from that resident's POA or decision-maker.

Any pet who is out of control will be required to leave the home and will not be allowed re-entry without proof of a positive temperament test from a vet or a trainer.

If you wish to bring a pet in for a resident visit, be sure to send the required information listed above to Morgan (morgan@chestervillsgc.ca) and **WAIT** to receive confirmation from her before bringing the pet in.

Please keep in mind that Chester village is ultimately responsible if a pet injures someone which makes it necessary for us all to adhere to this policy.

Questions and concerns:

A family member expressed appreciation for the large banner which has been placed above Chester's entrance. It reads "Grateful, Thankful & Proud of our Essential Employees" and was placed there by Chester's Board of Directors.

Cynthia was asked about the repairs needed for the tiles in unit corridors. Several tiles are lifting, especially on the east side corridors, probably due to age and a minor shift in the building. There is a 3-year plan in place for this work...2 units will be done each year at a total cost of \$750,000.

Cynthia reminded us to notify unit staff and/or Reception if we see evidence of any needed repairs... Staff will notify Maintenance to take care of the problem.

When asked about Gina, Cynthia reported that she is doing well and has completed 6 of 8 required treatments... It is hoped that she will be returning to Chester in June.

Gina told us of the arrival of 2 new staff members: a dedicated Staff Educator and one RN Night Nurse.

A family member asked what should be done if we see an unmasked staff member. We were told to notify the unit nurse, or a Nurse Manager at Reception and it will be dealt with.

And finally, Cynthia asked that anyone who has a back door pass to notify her as the previous list has disappeared.

News from Lynne:

The Board's Quality Care Committee has resumed monthly meetings which were interrupted by Gina's absence. This will allow Lynne to receive updates on any care issues and then pass them on to Family Council members.

Lynne told us of a new resource which might be of interest to family members. **Jean Parker** (a former staff member at Providence's Adult Day Program) has started her own business whereby she is coming in to provide life enrichment visits for residents, including dementia patients. Jean will encourage the resident to engage in conversation, and provide meaningful activities such as memory care, etc. She is currently working with a Chester resident and this resident's family member is very pleased with the results. (Lynne also has witnessed Jean's ability to help seniors and dementia patients and highly recommends her.)

Jean's phone number is **647-283-0239** and you can also find more information on her website: www.brightenmyday.ca

Another family member told us of the life enrichment visits conducted by **Diane Lewis** whose phone number is **416-571-8175**. We were told that Diane visits several residents at Chester and has been doing so for some time. She also comes highly recommended.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 27th.