



Date: Jan. 30, 2024

Dear Residents and Loved Ones of Allen Gray Care Centre,

We are on a Confirmed COVID-19 Outbreak in Birch- Second floor as of Jan. 29, 2024

The CDC has announced an outbreak of COVID-19 in Birch, which started on January 25th and is expected to end on February 12th. Two residents and one staff member have tested positive.

We are using Paxlovid for COVID-19-positive residents who are eligible to receive them.

We continue to follow all PH, CDC and AHS guidelines. The lift date will be two weeks from the last onset of symptoms; the tentative lift date will be Feb. 12, 2024

**Recreation:** No high-risk and large group activities in Birch.

**Hair Salon-** Should be open for all residents except in Birch.

If you are exposed and have any symptoms, please do not visit the site. We encourage you to wear masks at all times while visiting your loved ones on the unit.

Asymptomatic residents can leave the facility, but if they become symptomatic while away from the site, please inform the unit and ensure they are wearing masks upon their return.

Symptomatic residents can attend emergency medical appointments as long as the receiving site is aware of the outbreak and ensures they wear masks.

We encourage you to take COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines to protect yourself and the vulnerable residents.

**Resident restrictions:**

**Confirmed or symptomatic residents are recommended to be isolated** in their room with Modified Respiratory precautions for a minimum of 5 days from the onset of symptoms. The isolation period ends when symptoms improve, and the resident is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.

Resident mask recommendation after the isolation period ends:

- When outside their room, residents are recommended to mask\* for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.
- Residents are recommended to return to their room when the mask is removed, such as to eat meals or snacks.

**\*If a mask is not tolerated:**

- The resident is recommended to complete 10 days of isolation on Modified Respiratory precautions in their room.




**We implemented the following guidelines:**

1. Mask at ALL times in the facility for staff and visitors, with the exception of eating/drinking during meals (for staff only), ensuring you are physically distanced from others.
2. High-touch cleaning, two times a day and low-touch cleaning once daily.
3. Removed shared items (e.g. salt shakers) in Birch.
4. Follow break room guidelines. Dining area maximum of two people on a table in Birch.
5. Rigorous hand hygiene.
6. Staff are not to enter the facility if they have symptoms; if symptoms develop during their shift, they should notify the manager and leave immediately.
7. Monitor the symptoms of residents daily. Currently focus on swabbing any symptomatic residents.
8. Visitors who choose to visit should be advised of the potential risk of exposure to practice good hand hygiene and limit visits to one (1) resident and exit the facility immediately after the visit.
9. Request that all visitors/Designated Support Persons (DSPs) report to the nursing desk/reception before visiting residents in Birch.
10. Visitors/DSP should be advised of the potential risk of exposure if visiting a symptomatic resident.
11. Maintain isolation of symptomatic residents. Discourage visitations, especially for symptomatic COVID+ residents. If visitors decide to visit symptomatic/ COVID+ residents, ensure they are donning and doffing PPE appropriately.

The health and safety of residents, families, and staff is our first priority and a responsibility we take very seriously. Should there be any further updates, we will provide these as we receive them for the duration of the outbreak.

Again, thank you, and we appreciate all the support and concern.

Sincerely,

Manju George, DOC,   
Cory Komant, CEO