



Date: September 26, 2022

Dear Residents and Loved Ones of Allen Gray Care Centre,

**We are on “Confirmed Covid-19 Outbreak in FIR” as of September 18, 2022**

We have one resident and one staff tested positive for Covid-19 as of Sept. 18, 2022. No more active staff members or residents that linked to the outbreak at this time. Our outbreak lift date will be as of October 02, 2022 as long as we have no new cases.

If you are exposed and if you have any symptoms, please do not visit the site. We ask that you limit your visit as much as possible while we are on the outbreak.

We are continuing to follow all guidelines from the PH, CDC and AHS.

**We implemented the following guidelines:**

1. Mask at ALL times in the facility and we encourage you to wear eye protection while we are on outbreak, with the exception of when eating/drinking during meals (for staff only), ensuring you are physically distanced from others.
2. High touch cleaning, 3 times a day and low touch cleaning once daily.
3. Removed shared items (e.g. salt shakers)
4. Follow break room guidelines. Main Dining/cafeteria maximum 2 people on a table,
5. Rigorous hand hygiene
6. Discourage car pooling with staff members
7. Staff are not to enter facility if they have symptoms, if symptoms developed during their shift to notify manager and leave immediately.
8. Monitor symptoms of residents daily. Currently focus on swabbing any symptomatic residents.
9. Hair salon can remain open, no groups and use of masks at all times
10. Recreation can have small group activities as long as the residents are physically distant from one another (10 people max).
11. Discourage visitations especially for symptomatic and COVID + residents. If visitors decide to visit symptomatic/COVID + resident, ensure they are donning and doffing PPE appropriately.

**Influenza and Covid-19 Bivalent vaccines:**

We are planning to administer both Influenza and Covid-19 Bivalent vaccines in early October. You will be receiving calls this week to obtain consent for both vaccines for residents. Eligible consented residents will be receiving both vaccines at the same time. LTC is considered as high risk and residents are eligible to receive the vaccine after 3 months of having the Covid-infection or vaccine. We encourage everyone who is eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. If you would like to learn more about the vaccines, please visit the Government of Canada website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/moderna.html>



**Please also see the information we received from AHS re. Vaccines:**

“In Alberta we now have Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine that includes an Omicron BA1 strain along with the original strain. The updated vaccine is designed to give you broad protection against COVID-19, including better protection against the Omicron variant. Getting a fall booster is one of the best ways to protect yourself against severe outcomes from COVID-19.

**As part of the Immunization Outreach Program beginning the week of October 3, 2022, residents and staff of seniors’ congregate care facilities will be recommended to receive a dose of BOTH influenza and COVID-19 bivalent vaccine in order to be maximally protected against both diseases. Where possible, the vaccines will be given at the same time.**

For most people it is recommended to wait 5 months since their last vaccine dose or infection. However, within seniors’ congregate care facilities, the COVID-19 bivalent booster dose can be offered to residents and staff if at least 3 calendar months have passed. The spacing requirements are different because of the high risk of severe outcomes in residents, and so that the maximum number of individuals can receive the booster dose when immunizers are offering the vaccine on-site. For residents and/or staff who have had COVID-19 infection or vaccine within the previous 3 months, immunization with the COVID-19 bivalent vaccine will need to be deferred until 3 months have passed”.

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 to you 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 

Charlotte McFadden, CEO