

## For Better Retirement Living



April 6, 2023

Dear Augustine House Community,

As you may be aware, Dr. Bonnie Henry gave a press conference today to announce changes to the Medical Health Orders related to Covid-19. She acknowledged that changes take time and will take place over the next number of days. These changes will require changes in procedures and, in some cases, policies. We have begun this work and will complete it over the next few days, with the majority of changes taking effect next week.

Changes announced include:

- Visitors will **no longer be required to provide proof of vaccination status**, and those who are unvaccinated for COVID-19 will be able to visit freely. This will take place immediately.
- Visitors will **no longer be required to undergo a rapid antigen test** prior to visiting. This is in effect now. We will continue to ask about COVID-19 symptoms for the time being. This will change to 'passive screening' once Fraser Health has clarified what this will entail and provided educational information.
- Visitors will **not be required to wear masks while visiting**, unless specifically required based on a Point of Care Risk Assessment. This may be a requirement, for example, if a visitor is exhibiting symptoms of a respiratory illness or if there are active cases of respiratory illness in the area where they are visiting. This will take place beginning Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Visitors will be able to **visit in public areas** and join into events and activities, both indoors and outdoors. We will return to the ability to book specific areas within the building for larger family and friend gatherings. We will begin taking bookings next week.

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- We are looking forward to welcoming family and friends back to the dining room. We will begin taking reservations once we have established a process for this. I anticipate this will take a few days. We will let everyone know when this is in place.
- **In the event of a declaration of Enhanced Monitoring or Outbreak, we will required to follow rules and procedures as set out by the Medical Health Officer.**

As Doctor Henry stated; "Covid-19 has not gone away". **Please stay home if you are feeling unwell as well as practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.** The population of Residents living in our community is one that is at greater risk should they contract COVID-19. Please help us to keep our community safe and healthy.