



## Report 2022-002

**Report Title:** COVID 19 Update

**Committee Name:** Community Health

**Committee Meeting Date:** January 10, 2022

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**Council Meeting Date:** January 26, 2022

**Strategic Plan Priorities:**  Economic Prosperity and Innovation  
 Sustainable Growth  
 Thriving and Inclusive Communities  
 Leadership in Change

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### Information

**“That the Community Health Committee receive Report 2022-002 ‘COVID 19 Update’ for information; and Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive the report for information.”**

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## **Purpose**

This report for information will provide a brief overview of the Golden Plough Lodge's Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) strategies related to COVID 19 and any outbreak and vaccination status as applicable.

## **Background**

The Golden Plough Lodge continues to work collaboratively with Public Health to ensure the safety of residents and staff during the COVID 19 pandemic. The Golden Plough Lodge has had four "Declared Outbreaks" as per Public Health to date. Most recent outbreak was declared December 20, 2021. The GPL remains in outbreak status at time of this report. The GPL is adhering to the current protocol assigned by the MOHLTC to the HKPRHU catchment area when not in a provincial lock-down or stay at home order. The Director of MLTC has made additional changes to Directive 3 which is copied to this report.

### ***Visitors:***

- A maximum of 2 caregivers can be designated by a resident and any newly designated caregivers must be fully vaccinated to enter the home.
- General visitors are not permitted during "Outbreak" and as well are "Paused" as per the latest MOLTC Directive. (Exception is End of Life/Palliative Care)
- A maximum of 2 people (caregivers) per resident at a time.
- Masks always remain mandatory for ALL persons within the GPL
- Face shields or goggles are required due to current outbreak.
- Active Screening is still required for anyone entering the home and for residents returning from absences. Screening questions asked, no temperature monitoring.

### ***Surveillance Testing and Access to Homes effective December 30, 2021:***

- All staff, students, volunteers, and caregivers must be surveillance tested at least 2 times per week. (PCR swabbing during "Outbreak")
- All currently designated caregivers must provide proof of a first dose of vaccine (or a valid medical exemption) by December 20 to enter a home, unless they are visiting a resident receiving end of life care. These caregivers will then have until February 21 to be fully vaccinated. Until fully vaccinated, these caregivers will be limited to visiting their loved one in their room.
- General visitors are paused at this time and support workers must be tested each time they attend at a home.

### **Short Stay Absences:**

- Day absences for all residents for social purposes will be paused. All essential, medical, or compassionate absences will continue to be permitted.

### **Overnight Absences:**

- o Not permitted at this time (see attached chart *Long-Term Care Visitors, Absences & Social Gatherings Snapshot as of December 30th, 2021*)

## **Minister's Directive: LONG-TERM CARE HOME COVID-19 IMMUNIZATION POLICY**

### **Effective December 30, 2021:**

#### **Mandatory Boosters**

- Staff, students, volunteers, support workers and caregivers:
  - o Those who are eligible on or before December 31st will have until January 28, 2022 to show proof of their booster dose
  - o The remainder of eligible staff, students, volunteers, and support workers will have until March 14, 2022 to show proof of their booster dose – does not apply to those not yet eligible (e.g., under 18)
  - o The remainder of caregivers will have until May 23, 2022 to show proof of their booster dose.
- Residents
  - o Residents are eligible for a **Fourth** booster 3 month post the 3rd dose.

#### **General visitors:**

- General visitors are currently paused, and the Ministry will be working with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to determine ongoing requirements, including for children, prior to the pause concluding

#### **Requirements:**

Every licensee of a long-term care home shall ensure that all individuals to whom this Directive applies provide proof of having received:

- i. the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines, or
- ii. one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or
- iii. three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, or
- iv. a valid medical exemption outlining the reason, and the length of time the exemption applies.

## **The objectives of this Directive are to:**

- set out a provincially consistent approach to COVID-19 vaccination requirements in long-term care homes;
- maximize COVID-19 immunization rates in long-term care homes;
- ensure that individuals have access to information about COVID-19 vaccination; and
- increase accountability and transparency through public reporting of immunization rates in long-term care homes.

## **Infection Prevention and Control**

Stringent IPAC procedures have been in place since the province declared the pandemic including:

- Third-Party surveillance and screening in place for all shifts
- All staff wear surgical grade masks while in the home
- All staff and visitors wear surgical masks while in the Home. additional PPE while in any resident home area (Face shield/Gown) where appropriate as per IPAC recommendations for isolation, etc. (enhanced measures during a declared outbreak)
- All staff are screened daily for symptoms. Residents are screened twice daily for symptoms and temperature.
- Residents cohorted to their own resident home area will be allowed to return to programming provided residents and staff are “fully” vaccinated according to the updated Directive 3 December 2021. (attached)

## **Third Party Oversight**

MOHLTC has declared that ALL LTCHs in Ontario must implement third party oversight of COVID screening. This is to ensure that all persons entering LTCHs are adhering to applicable screening and testing requirements. Dedicated funding (Covid Containment Funding) is being provided to support this initiative. 3rd party oversight began March 15, 2021 and remains in effect.

## **Vaccinations**

On October 11, 2021 a Third round of vaccine was distributed to the GPL residents. A staff Booster clinic was held at the GPL Thursday December 16, 2021. All staff will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine by January 28, 2022.

## **Consultations**

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR), Ministry of Long-Term Care, County of Northumberland, Home and Community Care Support Services Central East/Long-Term Care Homes COVID-19.

## **Legislative Authority/Risk Considerations**

Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR), Ministry of Long-Term Care, County of Northumberland. Reducing the staff swabbing from bi-weekly to weekly is a risk mitigation strategy. This proactive measure further protects the staff and residents from potential exposure and spread.

## **Discussion/Options**

Discussions continue with Public Health and the Ministry of Long-Term Care to ensure the safety of both staff and residents. In addition, the Home has transitioned to the new rapid testing model which puts extra strain on staffing. All families, POAs, Residents and staff are kept apprised of any changes on a weekly basis.

## **Financial Impact**

NA

## **Member Municipality Impacts**

NA

## **Conclusion**

GPL senior management requests that the Community Health Committee receive this report 'For Information'.

## **Attachments**

- *Updated Directive 3, December 2021*
- *Long-Term Care Visitors, Absences & Social Gatherings Snapshot As of December 30th, 2021*