

COVID-19 Response Update

Friday, June 5, 2020

Dear Families of Residents at Orchard Villa,

This week, we moved closer to being able to declare the outbreak over. This newsletter highlights important updates this past week related to the outbreak and care of your loved one and addresses key questions from family contacts.

We are happy to report that should we receive no more positive cases, in partnership with Durham Region Health Department, we anticipate the outbreak will be declared over as early as June 11. However, we will still be required to continue with the provincial guidelines for long-term care homes, which includes ongoing visitor restrictions.

What's New:

Canadian Armed Forces withdraw from Orchard Villa

On Friday, June 4, the Canadian Armed Forces formally withdrew from Orchard Villa. Over the last five weeks, the CAF team, in partnership with Lakeridge Health, has helped to stabilize staffing levels, provided health care service to residents, supported housekeeping, helped connect loved ones to their families, assisted with the restocking of personal protective equipment and played a vital role in facilitating the temporary moves of your loved ones. We want to thank the approximately 25 personnel from the CAF for their expertise and collaboration.

Management Update

Following up on the government's announcement from last week, Lakeridge Health continues to work out the details for how the day-to-day operations of the home will be managed. We will share information as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, Lakeridge Health's team will continue to provide leadership and expert support in resolving the outbreak.

Outbreak Update

Resolved Cases

Last week's surveillance test (tests to determine the presence of the virus in a group or community) revealed no new positive cases. Currently there are 147 residents with resolved cases, according to Durham Region Health Department. These individuals are considered to have recovered from COVID-19. (Residents who are "resolved," are considered to be recovered from the virus 14 days after they developed symptoms, or in the cases of asymptomatic individuals, 14 days from the time of the first positive test).

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Number of Hospitalized Residents

To date, there are 24 residents from Orchard Villa admitted to Lakeridge Health (hospital data). As of the last testing date of May 27, four residents who are COVID-19 positive are currently at the hospital.

Once the outbreak is over, the hospital and Home and Community Care we will reach out to each family to discuss individualized transition plans for your loved ones.

We remember and honour the 78 Orchard Villa residents who died from COVID-19. (Durham Region Health Department)

Infection Prevention and Control Update: Ongoing, regular cleaning of rooms

Last week, we told you that all rooms at Orchard Villa were “deep cleaned.” While all rooms in the home have been adequately decontaminated and disinfected, rooms in the retirement home were “**terminally cleaned.**”

In a “terminal clean,” all frequently touched and horizontal surfaces are wiped down with an industrial, Health Canada-approved cleaner. Deep cleaning requires all items to be removed from all rooms during cleaning. And like the residents in the long-term care home, residents in the retirement home would have needed to temporarily relocate while their belongings were packed and stored.

Since residents in the retirement home could properly isolate and remain in their rooms to prevent further spread of COVID-19, the Lakeridge Health Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) team assessed that a “terminal clean” would not only be less disruptive to residents, but, more importantly, be the most appropriate method to properly decontaminate, disinfect and clean each resident’s room in the retirement home.

After the terminal clean, an inspection and assessment done by the IPAC team confirmed that the rooms in the retirement home have been adequately decontaminated and disinfected to further protect residents against the outbreak and further spread of COVID-19.

And, very importantly, ongoing measures to prevent future outbreaks are in place and will continue including ongoing and regular cleaning of all rooms.

Services resuming: Fresh air walks, social distance dining, potential family visit

Physiotherapy services resumed this week and we have also begun to re-introduce fresh air walks, allowing residents to enjoy the spring weather and sunshine. Together with staff chaperones, many of your loved ones have started to take walks outdoors – a welcome development over this week.

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We will need to continue to follow provincial guidelines and recommendations during the outbreak. But once the outbreak is cancelled, we will be ready to return to social-distanced dining rooms. The dining rooms areas are already set up and we are prepared to open them as soon as we are able - with safety being the priority.

We are also developing a plan for one family member to visit, following the essential safety requirements of social distancing and masking. We will share more details when they become available.

We understand this is an extremely stressful time for residents and their families. To support the emotional and mental wellbeing of residents, starting Monday, we will be offering wellness checks for residents provided by volunteers from Lakeridge Health's mental health team. If you feel your loved one would benefit from a friendly visit and wellness check, please notify Caroline Connelly. Her contact information is below.

Keeping Families Connected and Informed

Please do not hesitate to contact our **Patient Experience Specialists** with your questions and concerns at:

Phone: 905-576-8711 ext. 32489

Email: OrchardVilla-PatientExp@lh.ca

To schedule a virtual visit please contact Caroline Connelly at cconnelly@southbridgecare.ca or 905-831-2522 extension 3115 or 3401.

Please visit the **web page on the outbreak response at Orchard Villa** at www.lakeridgehealth.on.ca. This web page can also be accessed from Orchard Villa's website and Facebook page.