



December 17, 2021

***“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.”***

Luke 2:11

Re: COVID-19 Protocols Reminders and Updates

Dear Residents,

It is hard to believe that Christmas is only a week away! Where has the year gone?

It has truly been a joy to spend this past year with all of you! I have been so blessed and honoured to share in your joys and sorrows, frustrations and delights, and ups and downs of this past year. And I know our staff – your staff – continue to delight in caring for and serving you!

Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic was a large focus of this past year and, as we listen to the news as the Omicron variant seems to be on the rise, we know that it is not over yet. So, on we must prevail.

Health officials are telling us that the new variant spreads much more easily and, although those that are unvaccinated are still demonstrating more severe symptoms, even those that are vaccinated are not immune. So, as we do our utmost to keep ourselves and the Shalem community safe, there are just a few things I want to remind you:

- For all social visits held at Shalem, whether in your suite or a shared activity room, please align the number of guests with those of the province:
 - **All indoor gatherings capped at 10 adults** (from as many households as desired).
 - Children and youth 17 and under do not count toward the 10-person limit.
- As per Shalem’s protocols, **all visitors must be vaccinated** and show proof of their vaccination at the Front Desk. Essential Care workers, such as nursing support, housecleaning or other care services who are not vaccinated will be allowed in upon proof of a negative COVID test taken within 48 hours.

- Now that vaccines are available for children ages 5 – 17, we encourage Residents to ensure that any children visiting Shalem are vaccinated. At this time, this will not be monitored or checked at the Front Desk.
- AHS has implemented new health screening protocols whereby, on a temporary basis, even if fully vaccinated, visitors and volunteers **will not be permitted to enter the site for 14 days** following known close contact with any case of COVID-19.
- Please do not let anyone in the building through a side door, including deliveries. If you have a delivery either meet it at the door and take the delivery from the delivery person or direct them to the Haven entrance.
- We will continue to allow Residents to book guests in the Dining Room for meals where we are able to sit the Resident and their guest at a separate table. All activities such as chapel or Happy Hour will continue to be for Residents only at this time.

Using the Tools Available

I appreciate and respect the diverse perspectives on vaccines, but I believe vaccines remain the best tools we have right now to protect ourselves and those around us from severe illnesses or worse. If you have not yet received your booster shot, please do so. As well, if you are unvaccinated, please reconsider as vaccines continue to be the best public health measure to protect people for the negative outcomes of the disease and slow transmission.

If you are not vaccinated, please consider using a mask when outside of your suite. Although this is not mandatory, as we consider the entire Shalem facility your home, we do ask that you take necessary precautions to protect both yourself and others around you.

Shalem is in the process of acquiring rapid testing kits to have available for staff, volunteers or essential care visitors. We are still in the process of determining how best to utilize these although do not anticipate they will be made available for social visitors.

A Season of Hope

Christmas is a time of family and social gathering so, as you celebrate in the coming weeks, I trust that you will have times of joy and hope, times of reflections and remembrances, and times of remembering that the Saviour born so long ago in the town of David, was born for you!

May you be blessed and filled with hope this season!



Dorothy de Vuyst
Executive Director