



December 17, 2020

Dear Good Samaritan Society families and residents,

As we get closer to the Christmas season, I wanted to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support and understanding with all of the changes that have had to be implemented over the past nine months.

With case numbers rising, I must remind you that the provincial government has currently restricted social gatherings, and everyone is not supposed to mingle with others outside their immediate household. Technically, that means residents should not be visiting with anyone that is not one of their two designated family or support visitors. As well, if a designated family or support person does not live alone, residents should not be visiting their household per the public health orders currently in place. We are encouraging residents not to leave the care home unless for essential reasons at this time.

If a resident or their designated family or support person chooses to have the resident leave the care home, regardless of their time away, the resident will be required to undergo a screening protocol upon return, including a risk assessment. The risk assessment will determine if there are additional protocols that will need to be put in place to keep those we care for and our employees safe (e.g. isolation).

At this time, we are only allowing designated family or support visitors to visit inside the care homes, and those visitors are kindly asked to call the care home to schedule their time in advance. Designated visitors will also be provided with a mask when they visit and will be required to wear it for the duration of their time in the care home. Please keep in mind that for any of our care homes currently on investigative or confirmed outbreak status, there may be additional requirements in place for visitors, including increase personal protective equipment that must be worn.

We are also requesting that should any visitors learn they are COVID positive or they become symptomatic within 48 hours of visiting the home, that they notify management right away.

We know how important Christmas is to all of our residents and their loved ones, and so, we have asked our homes to increase staffing wherever possible on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, so we can safely accommodate as many designated visitors as possible. I would also like to encourage you to continue to reach out to the home to arrange virtual visits or go to our website (www.gss.org/well-wishes) to send messages and photos to anyone in our care.

We are also starting to prepare for our residents and employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine once it's available to us. Consent forms will be circulated soon, and the care home will reach out to any primary contacts or legal health representatives to have the consent forms filled out if a resident is not their own decision-maker.

I know that this Christmas is going to look very different for all of us, but together we can ensure that you, our residents and our employees are kept as safe as possible. If you have any questions, please reach out to your site manager, or feel free to email goodsaminfo@gss.org.

I want to wish you a very happy holiday season and hope for a better year in 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Fielding', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Fielding
Vice President of Operations, Quality, and Clinical Supports