



February 26, 2021

Dear Good Samaritan Society families and residents,

I wanted to reach out to you to provide you with an update on our current COVID-19 response.

Since my update to you last month, a lot has happened, including a completed rollout of second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to all of our residents who were eligible and consented. This is excellent news and gives not only those in our care, and I am sure you, a sense of hope, but also our employees. We were fortunate to have our employees included in the first phase of the vaccine rollout, and many have been immunized or are currently scheduling their appointments. We are very appreciative of everyone who has chosen to be vaccinated. They are helping protect not only themselves but also those around them in the care home, their loved ones, and our communities.

Over the last month, we have seen a significant drop in the number of COVID-19 outbreaks and active cases we have across the organization. Again, this is promising news, but I can assure you that our employees continue to remain diligent and are following all public health orders to keep everyone safe and healthy.

As you may have heard, the provincial government has announced rapid COVID-19 testing for employees at our care homes. Our Emergency Operations team is currently reviewing and finalizing a process as to how this will be implemented at all of our care homes very soon.

At this time, we have made a decision as an organization to continue to put indoor social visits on hold for all of our care homes. Of course, any designated family or support visitors may continue to visit with their respective resident indoors, however out of an abundance of caution, we ask that you only do so if necessary to the resident's well-being. We also kindly ask that designated visitors continue to contact the care home to schedule their visits in advance to limit the number of people in the care home at any one time. Any designated visitor will be required to wear a mask upon arrival, and one will be provided to you. Please keep in mind that additional personal protective equipment will need to be worn should a care home go on outbreak.

I encourage you to continue to reach out to the care 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.

As you know, the provincial government has recently loosened some restrictions, but that does not include indoor social gatherings. For this reason, residents should not be visiting with anyone that is not one of their two designated family or support visitors indoors. However, I do recognize that smaller gatherings outside are allowed with proper precautions in place.

We continue to encourage residents not to leave the care home unless essential. 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 additional protocols will need to be put in place to keep those we care for and our employees' safe (e.g. isolation). Under the current public health orders, if a designated family or support person does not live alone, residents should not be visiting their household.

Finally, to limit the risk of exposure as much as possible, we are also requesting that if visitors learn they have COVID-19 or become ill within 48 hours of visiting the care home, they notify management right away. If you have any questions or concerns, please continue to reach out to your site manager or email goodsaminfo@gss.org.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Your support has meant a lot to our employees.

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