

Family and visitors:

- If you are feeling sick or unwell please **DO NOT** visit!
- Upon entering and exiting the care home **PLEASE** use the provided waterless alcohol based hand sanitizer located at the entrance.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs often spread this way.
- Wash your hands often, especially after coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available use an alcohol based hand cleaner.
- If you are not feeling well and unsure if you should visit, call the unit before visiting.

Family visiting with pets

Care homes permit family pets to visit. As the pet owner you are responsible for the behavior of your pet while visiting at our site. If bringing in your pet to visit you are responsible for the following:

- Prior to visiting with your pet, consult with care home staff to ensure your pet is an appropriate visitor (pets under six months of age should not be visiting).
- Perform hand hygiene before and after visiting.
- Ensure you and your pet visit only with who you intended to visit.
- Residents who are on isolation precautions should not have pets visit.
- Ensure pet remains on a leash or in cage.
- Proper clean up and disposal of pet excrement (urine/feces) is the responsibility of the pet owner.
- Restrict pets from entering all food prep and dining areas.
- Your animals must have current vaccinations and yearly vet visits.



OUR MISSION

To extend Christian Hospitality through a continuum of care to those in need or at risk, regardless of race or religious belief.

OUR VISION

To grow in strength, excellence and creativity in caring for others.

OUR VALUES

Healthy Relationships

In a spirit of compassion, we work in supportive partnerships and open our hearts to others by affirming their goodness and potential.

Hospitable Environments

We provide safe, comfortable communities inspiring involvement, where people experience a sense of caring, belonging and purpose.

Servant Leadership

We lead through giving of ourselves in service to others, by acting with courage in a trustworthy and ethical manner.



www.gss.org

For more information about The Good Samaritan Society or Good Samaritan Canada please contact:

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Follow us on social media



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Infection Prevention and Control

Information for residents and families



THE GOOD SAMARITAN SOCIETY

GOOD SAMARITAN CANADA



Hand hygiene is the single most important way to prevent infections.

Good Samaritan cares about preventing infection and avoiding the spread of germs. It is important to take the following steps to help prevent infections and avoid spreading germs that could infect you and others.

Perform hand hygiene

Hand hygiene is the **BEST** thing you can do to prevent the spread of all germs. Hand hygiene can be done by washing your hands or by using a waterless alcohol based hand sanitizer provided at all our care homes.

Clean Your Hands

- After going to the bathroom.
- Before and after eating/serving a meal.
- Before touching your mouth, nose and eyes.
- After coughing, sneezing or wiping your nose.
- If your hands are visibly dirty.
- Before entering and leaving the resident's room.
- Before and after participating in any activity.

Proper hand washing

- Roll up long sleeves and push up any wrist accessories.

- Wet hands with warm water and apply enough soap to cover surfaces of the hands.
- Vigorously rub soap over palms, backs of hands and wrists for 15 to 30 seconds.
- Rinse your hands well and pat dry with a paper towel.
- Use a clean paper towel to turn off the faucet and open the door before disposing of the towel into the garbage.

You are encouraged to ask **ANY** staff member, (including doctors) if they have preformed hand hygiene!

In addition to hand hygiene, staff may wear gloves when providing personal care to prevent the spread of germs.

As part of care, staff may also wear a gown, masks and eyewear for protection from splashing of blood and body fluids.

Proper use of the waterless hand sanitizer

- Use a waterless alcohol based sanitizer for routine hand cleaning only if your hands are not visibly dirty.
- Roll up long sleeves and push up any wrist accessories.
- Apply a palm full of hand sanitizer to hands.
- Rub all surfaces of your hands and wrists including palms, fingers, fingertips and thumbs.
- Rub until hands are completely dry, about 15 seconds.

Cover your cough or sneeze

Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette help to prevent the spread of germs. Covering sneezes and coughs prevent the spread of respiratory secretions from spreading into the air. In order to prevent the spread of infection:

- Turn away from other people before coughing or sneezing.
- Cover your mouth or nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Discard the tissue in the trash after each use.
- If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or your upper sleeve, not in your hands.
- Always perform hand hygiene after coughing or sneezing.

Respiratory Diseases

Respiratory diseases are caused by organisms such as viruses or bacteria that affect the airway and lungs. Respiratory illnesses are spread by coughing, sneezing, or face-to-face contact.

Symptoms of respiratory illness include cough, runny or stuffy nose and sore throat, which may be caused by one of the following:

- COVID-19
- Influenza
- Pneumococcal disease
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- Rhinovirus and other viruses that cause the common cold

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. Most people who get COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate illness and can manage their symptoms at home. In some cases, COVID-19 can lead to respiratory failure, lasting lung or heart muscle damage, nervous system problems, kidney failure or death.

The influenza virus, often called "the flu" is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe respiratory illness and at times can lead to death.

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by bacteria called *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

Infections from the bacteria can range from ear and sinus infections, to pneumonia and blood stream infections. Often it causes mild disease but can cause serious symptoms, lifelong disability or even death.

Immunization

The best way to prevent COVID-19, influenza and pneumococcal disease is by getting immunized. Family members and volunteers are encouraged to visit their community public health clinic, local pharmacy or family physician to receive their immunizations.

The most common side effects to immunization are minor and only last a day or two. Side effects include soreness, redness, or swelling where the vaccine was given, mild fever, fatigue, joint pain or headache.

The greatest misunderstanding about influenza immunization is that it will give you the flu. The influenza immunization **CANNOT** cause flu illness.

Outbreaks

An outbreak is a sudden increase in the occurrence of infection/disease. If an outbreak has been declared by public health or as advised by outbreak guidelines, a number of interventions may be put into place to help reduce the spread of disease. These interventions may include having to isolate in your room, enhanced cleaning, limitations on movement of residents and employees in the care home, and may change frequency of recreational and social activities. If you or your loved one are ill a sign will be placed on your room door indicating if personal protective equipment (PPE) is to be worn. Visitors should check in with staff prior to entering an isolation room to learn how to properly put on and take off PPE.