Saturday, March 14 12:30 pm

We count the safety of our residents and team members as our top priority and are taking all necessary infection control precautions in our Villages in relation to COVID-19, including implementing recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Chief Public Health Officer, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Ontario’s Ministry of Health.

A Ban on all non-essential visitors to all Villages

In order to protect the health and well-being or our residents and team members, Schlegel Villages is now asking that **all non-essential visitors stay home** while our communities work to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

At this point, there are no cases of COVID-19 in any of our 19 villages and we’re grateful to our teams for helping protect the health of our residents. We want to keep it that way, but we know this is a daunting task. Banning all **non-essential** visitors is not an easy decision to make, for we know how important it is for people to connect with their loved ones, but based on the latest understanding of the spread of this virus we firmly believe this is the right decision to protect the health and well-being of our residents and team members.

In the early hours of March 14, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health with Ontario’s Ministry of Health, sent a notice to all long-term care and retirement homes underlining the importance of banning all non-essential visitation, which has confirmed this is the right decision for our residents.

Our teams will do all they can to connect loved ones remotely while this ban is in place, and we thank everyone for their patience and understanding while our communities work to control the spread of COVID-19.

People who are **actively involved in the direct, daily care** of a resident will be considered essential, and will be screened upon entry to The Village.

Family members with a loved one in palliative care will be considered essential, and will be screened upon entry to The Village.

Please see the attached memo from Dr. Williams for more information.

<https://www.ltchomes.net/LTCHPORTAL/Content/Snippets/CMOH%20Memo%20-%20Visitors%20COVID-19%202020-03-13%20Shared.pdf>

Travel

We are now asking that all team members restrict travel to any destination outside of Canada and any person who has travelled outside Canada will be asked to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Please see the updated screening protocols related to travel attached.

Update on Personal Protective Equipment

Please see the attached directive from Public Health Ontario related to updated IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19.

New Residents

All Directors of Lifestyle Options in our retirement neighbourhoods are asked to conduct phone screening prior to welcoming any new residents. For those cleared to move-in, we will consider their movers and helpers to be essential and upon clearing the active screening, they will be welcome to assist. We ask that the number of helpers be limited to as few as possible.

Residents leaving the Villages

We ask that all residents refrain from leaving the Villages unless absolutely necessary. For our independent residents, we ask that they only leave for essentials, such as grocery shopping or medical appointments, and exercise caution to avoid large crowds.

New Screening Tool

There is a new screening tool attached for use at entry points.