



Family Notice

September 29th, 2023

Dear Families, Friends, and Partners in Care,

The BC Ministry of Health announced yesterday afternoon that they will be reinstating enhanced infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in long-term care settings ahead of the viral respiratory illness season, formerly known as flu season. Here is what you need to know:

- Effective Tuesday, October 3rd, all staff, contractors, volunteers, and visitors will be required to wear a medical mask while in any patient care areas of our home.
- Visitors will be required to wear a medical mask when they are in common areas of our home and when participating in indoor events, gatherings, and activities in common areas of our care home.
- Visitors do NOT have to wear masks when alone with the Elder in a common area.
- Visitors do NOT have to wear masks when alone with the Elder in their own private room.
- Visitors may share a meal with their loved one only when alone with the Elder in their own private room.
- Visitation Ambassadors will be situated at the front door entrance to support screening for symptoms of viral respiratory illness, hand out medical masks, and to ensure proper hand hygiene is being observed before entering our care home.
- Visitors who are sick or show symptoms of viral respiratory illness are highly discouraged from visiting our care home.
- Visitors are NOT required to adhere to these previously mandated preventative measures:
 - × Rapid point of care (POC) testing,
 - × Proof of vaccination,
 - × Temperature checks,
 - × Limits on group gatherings,
 - × Social or physical distancing.
- During an outbreak or period of enhanced monitoring, social visitation may be suspended at the direction of the Medical Health Officer (for the neighbourhood, floor, or throughout the entire home). In this scenario, communication will continue through our Elders' primary contact, as per our routine practice, and we will keep this designated person updated on any changes related to your loved one's health status.

As respiratory infections are increasing in communities across BC, the risk also increases for our vulnerable Elders who are more at risk for severe infections or complications. We thank you for your continued patience and support of these guidelines for the safety of our entire community.

If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact us at info@kinsmenlodge.ca or call the Visitation Ambassador at (604) 580-8053.

Warm Regards,

Kathleen Kennedy-Strath, MBA, CPA, CMA, ICD.D
Chief Executive Officer
Kinsmen Lodge