



336 Penetanguishene Road, Barrie, ON L4M 7C2

December 17, 2021

Dear Hospice Simcoe Visitor,

As you are aware, we are experiencing a pandemic where the COVID-19 virus is a serious health threat to individuals in our population. To ensure the health and safety of everyone who enters the residential facility, Hospice Simcoe has implemented all ministry guidelines and public health measures. We strongly believe that loved ones should surround individuals at end-of-life; therefore, we are permitting essential visitors. We will continue to update visitor guidelines as the pandemic evolves.

Every individual who interacts with residents entering the building must adhere to the following infection prevention and control practices:

- **Screening:** Do not enter the building if you are feeling unwell in any way. Be honest in answering the screening questions at the front entrance. You are only permitted access to the building or patio by a staff member or volunteer after screening has been completed and passed.
- **Essential visitors:** The resident (or substitute decision maker) will determine who is identified as an “Essential Visitor”. We strongly encourage you keep the number of essential visitors to as few as possible (we suggest 4-6). Individuals that are 2 years old and older are considered to be a visitor and must follow these visitor guidelines. You are permitted to have two visitors at a time. Please coordinate timing of visits to comply with two visitors at a time in the building.
- **COVID-19 Rapid Testing:** Visitors over the age of 18 years old will be randomly selected and asked to participate in our surveillance program. We will perform a rapid nasal swab (sample of nasal secretions from the nostrils) testing for COVID-19 virus. The rapid test takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. You will not be permitted to visit if the result of the rapid test is positive.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Disinfect your hands using the alcohol based hand rub frequently, especially upon entering the building, entering and exiting the resident’s room, using the kitchen, after using the bathroom etc.
- **Mask use:** there is significant risk in transmission of the Omicron variant. Wear the provided medical mask **AT ALL TIMES**, including indoors and outside even when you are alone with your loved one. Removing your mask increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission to your loved one, other visitors and members of the care team, as you may be a carrier of the virus and not showing symptoms. The mask may only be removed to eat, drink and sleep.



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- **Eating and Drinking:** Eating and drinking is only permitted in the resident's room. Not in common areas. If you need to remove your mask briefly to eat or drink, please stay six feet away from your loved one and all other individuals and put mask back on.
  - **Visiting space:** Keep your visit within the resident's room only. You are not permitted to use the common areas of the residence i.e. sit at the kitchen table, family room etc. unless directed by the clinical team. You are encouraged to visit outside on the patios keeping the visitor number to two essential.
- I consent to having a random rapid COVID-19 nasal test. I understand I am not permitted to visit without a negative COVID-19 test.
- I understand and agree to abide by the above stated infection prevention practices of Hospice Simcoe. If I do not follow these guidelines, I understand and agree that I will not be permitted to continue to visit.

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Printed Name

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Room Number

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Signature

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Date

On behalf of the entire Hospice Simcoe team, we thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this challenging time. Please be patient with us, as you may have to wait while we complete necessary screening and swabbing procedures. We are making every effort to prevent COVID-19 transmission and outbreak while providing compassionate hospice palliative care. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

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