



MEMO

TO: Staff, Residents and Families

From: Trisha DesLaurier CEO

Date: August 5, 2022

RE: Covid-19 Outbreak Communication update

As you are all aware, positive cases of the Covid-19 –Omicron B.1.1 variant was identified in our residents and staff effective July 18th.

- All staff members identified were sent home for immediate isolation and continue to be in isolation as per the **Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU)** direction.
- **There have been no new cases identified since July 31st in residents or staff so it is our unwavering hope that the outbreak will be declared over by Public Health towards the end of next week. (August 12th)** Should we be declared out of the outbreak, then the residents will be back in the dining room to eat, activities will resume, hairdressing can take place for residents in the hairdressing room amongst other processes which we will communicate to you all.
- The number of confirmed cases amongst staff were 18, suspected cases were 26 and 20 staff have since recovered. The staff cases were in all of the departments including the administration staff which left staffing at the worst level that it has ever seen.
- The number of confirmed cases amongst residents were 42, suspected was 44 and 30 have recovered.
- The Agency Nurses that were hired for back up staffing support also had covid which left the staffing even more detrimental.
- It is with a very heavy heart that we have reported 5 deaths with this outbreak. We offer our deepest condolences to all families during this difficult time.



- Healthcare partners from several hospitals and community agencies in Renfrew County came to assist us with PPE, staffing, meals and support. This was very much an “all hands-on deck” situation.
- The Municipality has been working with us on the Emergency assistance component and have connected us to some resources.
- Renfrew County Paramedics were on site daily to assist us with daily surveillance and front-line duties.
- Some community volunteers came in to assist our team with feeding the residents due to the fact that all residents had to stay in their rooms for meal service. **Thank you!**
- Some Essential Caregivers come in to assist where they could as well. **Thank you!**
- Infection Prevention & Control Teams from St Francis Memorial Hospital and Ottawa were on site regularly to assist with best practices.
- Infection Prevention and Control (**IPAC**) practices continue to be strictly followed, personal protective equipment continues to be diligently utilized and Valley Manor continues to complete **daily** surveillance testing for all staff and leadership.
- Residents continue to be receive surveillance testing and as of yesterday, there are no new cases identified.
- Valley Manor continues to work closely with the **Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU)** and we are confident that once this isolation period is complete, no further action will be required.
- While Valley Manor continues to keep everyone informed, each and every one of us have an obligation to maintain the strictest of confidentiality for our staff and residents.
- All current Ontario Health directives continue to be in full effect.
- Valley Manor is currently working and planning closely with the Red Cross and NGOO Disaster support on follow up assistance from the outbreak.



- Psychological support is available for all of our staff through the Employee Assistance Program and Ontario Mental Health support.
- Thank you very much to all families for your support and understanding during this very difficult time.
- I have attached Dr. Robert Cushman's; our Medical Officer of Health's memo that was circulated in February of this year as a reminder to please continue be gentle with our team. This has been very hard on everyone in the entire home, in every department. It has been going on for 2 ½ years. We are all fragile and doing the very best that we can.

Compassion, empathy and understanding goes a very long way right now.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly should you require further information.

Thank you once more for your continued patience and unwavering support throughout this recent outbreak.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Trisha DesLaurier".

Trisha DesLaurier
CEO
Valley Manor

