



February 19, 2021

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

In this communication, we provide an update on the status of the outbreak at Dom Lipa, and about essential visitor Rapid Testing. It is also important for everyone to think about their goals of care during these unprecedented times, and here are some steps to take.

Covid-19 Update

The Covid-19 outbreak declared on Feb 8th continues until tests for residents and staff are negative a second time. All Covid-19 test results were negative this week for 81 residents and 83 staff.

The next testing of staff and residents will be on Monday, February 22nd, and the results will help determine whether the outbreak is over.

We are pleased to report that the 1 staff and 2 resident cases have been resolved.

All residents, both in the Long-Term Care and Retirement, are currently in "home isolation" in their rooms. This includes tray service meals in their rooms. Our staff will continue to provide all necessary care and support to our residents, using full infection control precautions.

Essential Visitors at Dom Lipa

The Ministry is continually reviewing and refining the directives regarding testing of essential visitors. Since the last communication, there have been new directives and Essential Visitors, including Essential Caregivers, will no longer have to wait for employees to first go through the testing process.

As of February 16th, Essential Caregivers will be tested at the same frequency as staff. Currently, COVID-19 testing can be done using a validated real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) laboratory test or a point-of-care rapid antigen screening test (Rapid Antigen Test) in accordance with the protocols and frequency contained in the COVID-19 Guidance: Considerations for Rapid Antigen Screening (Provincial Testing Guidance). Once fully implemented (i.e., by March 15th), only rapid antigen tests will be used for surveillance testing in non-outbreak LTC homes (unless an exception applies).

Dom Lipa announced earlier that Rapid Antigen Testing (rather than PCR testing) will now be performed for Essential Visitors upon every entry. This takes approximately 15 minutes. If you provide care for your loved one at two or more different times during the day, the testing need only be done once at the first entry.

Essential Visitors will use the side door to the Chapel for entrance to testing area. There will be signage on the door. If there are two or more Essential Visitors or Caregivers waiting to be tested at the entranceway, please return to your car, and wait there for the test results.

Entry testing for Essential Visitors is available daily between from 8am to 12pm, and from 3pm to 7pm.

Updates and Ministry FAQ documents are posted on www.domlipa.ca.

Thinking and Talking about Your Goals of Care

In May 2020, we wrote about the importance of developing your personal care plan and we repeat this information here.

At Dom Lipa, our top priority is to continue to provide excellent care to all our residents. Still, it is important that we all plan for the future, whatever it might bring. Here are some important steps to take:

1. Decide who will make decisions for your health care.

The term used in Ontario law for the person who makes health and personal care decisions on your behalf when you are unable to do so is “Substitute Decision Maker” (SDM). The role of an SDM is described in this pamphlet prepared by Speak Up Ontario: <https://www.speakupontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SDM-Pamphlet-Ontario-template.pdf>

There are two ways to identify who would be your SDM.

The first way is for you to choose and name a person, or more than one person, to act as your SDM by preparing and signing a document called a Power of Attorney for Personal Care (POAPC). You can speak to your lawyer regarding the steps you should take. For more information, you may refer to the website of the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee at: <https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/livingwillqa.pdf>

If you do not create a Power of Attorney for Personal Care, then health care providers will use the hierarchy (ranked listing) in the Health Care Consent Act. The individual(s) highest on this list who meet(s) the requirements is your automatic SDM. You do not have to do anything to have this automatic SDM make decisions for you when you are mentally incapable of doing so. This automatic SDM is given the right by this law.

For a list of SDMs, see <https://www.speakupontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SUBSTITUTE-DECISION-MAKERS-Final.pdf>

Some helpful guides include:

Speak Up Ontario for advance care planning discussion guides. Available at <https://www.speakupontario.ca/>

Ottawa Health Research Institute, Ottawa Personal Decision Guide for People Making Health or Social Decisions. Available at <https://decisionaid.ohri.ca/docs/das/OPDG.pdf>

2. Talk about your wishes.

We can all prepare by speaking to our health care providers and families about our advance care planning wishes. It is hard to talk about these topics, so consider using a workbook such as the one prepared by Speak Up Ontario. Available at <https://www.speakupontario.ca/resource/acp-workbook-en/>

Remember that you need to involve your SDM(s) and your families, as you think about your wishes so that your health care providers do not end up inadvertently being the only ones who have heard about your wishes.

In Ontario, we emphasize that consent for treatment is needed from you or your SDM(s) based on current information. Verbal wishes or documents made before your illness are not consent.

Thank you for your continuing good wishes and support.

Please continue to stay safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

The Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa
52 Neilson Drive, Toronto, ON M9C 1V7 | P: 416-621-3820 | F: 416-621-9773 | info@domlipa.ca