

March 4, 2021

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

In this communication we confirm that we have no cases of Covid-19 and write about food safety and how we keep our residents safe.

### **Covid-19**

All test results for residents and staff were negative for Covid-19.

The sixth, and most recent, Covid-19 outbreak declared on February 8, 2021 was declared over on February 25, 2021.

Thank you again to staff, essential caregivers, and residents for being diligent with handwashing, wearing masks and following infection prevention guidelines to severely limit the impact of this outbreak.

A meeting with Trillium Health Partners Infection and Prevention and Control (THP IPAC) took place on February 24, 2021. The report from TPH IPAC highlighted the good work of our staff members.

The following conclusions were made by THP:

“Good hand hygiene, distancing, and PPE use was observed. All but 6 residents and almost 45% of staff members have received the COVID-19 vaccine so far.

The facility has implemented most of the previous recommendations from Public Health Ontario and Toronto Public Health and are encouraged to continue to focus on good entry screening practices and effective signage.

To build IPAC capacity on each unit, the THP IPAC Hub team introduced a process where staff will audit each other at least once in any given shift, using a simple paper tool for hand hygiene and donning and doffing of PPE. The staff members congregated and physically distanced in the hallway on two units for the peer-to-peer audit demonstration by the IPAC Extenders. The staff members engaged in a demonstration and scenario-based discussion and demonstrated high levels of knowledge in their responses.”

Dom Lipa will continue to collaborate with the TPH IPAC Hub and will reach out to the Hub when help is needed.

### **Food Safety Policies and Practices**

We have been talking to our resident families with questions about food safety. Josie Babic, the Food Service Manager has prepared answers to some commonly asked questions.

We all know food is particularly important to each of us. Who does not find comfort in a slice of cake or potica, or a warm cup of milk? Staff at Dom Lipa love seeing the residents enjoying their meals. We are also happy to hear, when things are good and even when things can be improved.

Remember that our policies are different for those in Long-Term Care than for those in the Retirement Wing.

### **May I send food items to my loved one in the Retirement Wing?**

Yes, you may send small food items to your loved one. If the resident has allergies, be extra careful in selecting what you send.

Some retirement residents have a personal sized fridge and can store perishable food.

### **May I send food items to my loved one in Long-Term Care at Dom Lipa?**

No, we ask that you DO NOT send food items to your loved one in Long-Term Care. Each Long-Term Care resident at Dom Lipa is prescribed a diet by their physician. Not all foods are good for all residents.

Some examples of diets we have are:

- Reducing weight - someone is trying to lose weight, which might be for a medical reason.
- No added salt - no ham, sausages, bacon, chips, salted nuts.
- Modified Diabetic - someone with Diabetes is watching sugar and carbohydrate intake.
- Pureed textures - someone could have a swallowing problem.
- Thickened fluids - someone has more severe swallowing problems.
- Food allergies - someone may have a reaction to nuts or other foods.
- and more....

When packages arrive at the front door, it is very hard to keep track of which foods are OK. It may also put other residents at risk if food is shared.

Staff must do safety checks in rooms regularly. Staff will remove food from the room if it does not meet the Long-Term Care resident's safety needs.

With Spring around the corner, we find ants and insects, finding their way into the rooms, looking for sweet crumbs or unwrapped food, so staff are extra careful.

### **May I buy a fridge or cutlery for my loved one in Long-Term Care?**

Dom Lipa's policies do not allow fridges in the Long-Term Care resident's room.

Knives, scissors or sharp items are also not safe for our Long-Term Care residents. Staff will remove sharp and dangerous items from their rooms.

### **Is my loved one getting enough food in Long-Term Care or in the Retirement Wing?**

Dom Lipa serves 3 full meals and 3 snacks each day. We must provide at least two choices at each meal.

If there is something missing from our resident's diet, we are happy to hear from the resident or their family. Dom Lipa will make every effort to provide the right foods for each resident.

**Whom do I contact with questions about food?**

Please contact Josie Babic, Food Service Manager at 416-621-3820, Ext. 230 or e-mail her at [fss@domlipa.ca](mailto:fss@domlipa.ca).

Thank you for your understanding and support regarding food safety, so all our residents can stay safe.

Please continue to stay safe and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

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

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