



January 14, 2022

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

In this communication, we provide an update on our Lipathon 2021 Campaign, the current Covid-19 outbreak, changes to the visiting policy and information about the Omicron variant.

Lipathon 2021

The 2021 Lipathon campaign has now ended. Thank you to everyone for your support and generous donations. With your help, we were able to raise \$91,115.00 for Dom Lipa and we are forever grateful for your generosity.

Our special thanks to the following dedicated corporate sponsors of Dom Lipa:

Arthur B Ridley Funeral Home
Condu Electric
Konsuler Enterprises Limited
Moya Financial
Silver Fox Pharmacy

Linden Leaf

We are also so incredibly grateful to all the people, who supported our ongoing Linden Leaf campaign this year. Each Linden Leaf is a four-inch artistic metal leaf with personal engraving, which is added to our donor wall in the lobby area. The donation amount for this is \$1000.00, and you can dedicate the leaf to a beloved family member, who has passed away or to celebrate someone's birthday, anniversary, and/or other important life event. The form to have a Linden Leaf engraved is available on the website www.domlipa.ca (click on the Donate button for the form) or by email at donor@domlipa.ca.

Covid-19 Outbreak

There is an outbreak at Dom Lipa affecting staff and two residents. The outbreak was declared on December 30th, with staff reporting sick. We were able to confirm that the resident infections occurred because of transmission from outside the Home and many of the staff infections also seem to be happening within the community.

In the past, Public Health did not declare an outbreak if there was just one case. This has changed since Omicron appeared and now an outbreak is declared, even if just one staff member tests positive.

At this point in time, approximately 25% of our staff are away from work due to Covid-19 infections. Despite the illnesses, other staff and agency staff are covering all the shifts and providing all the standard care to our residents. There are staff who were Covid-19 positive in late December and have been cleared to return to work.

Under current precautions, we are limiting the movement of the staff throughout the building. We are assigning employees to work in a single area as much as possible.

Visiting and Calling During Outbreak

Public Health has given specific instructions to each resident about visitors. Nursing and dietary staff will inform each resident about their individual visiting plan.

Thus, we will not post on our website or otherwise communicate a general visiting policy due to the unpredictability of the situation. To be on the safe side, families should consider the entire Home to be in an outbreak.

Please be patient if nursing staff do not answer phone calls right away. Kindly call the home only if necessary so our overworked nurses do not also have to deal with extra phone calls.

Unprecedented Spread of Omicron Variant is Affecting the Healthcare Workforce

Omicron is here and spreading quickly. For an informative video by Dr. Van Kerkhove from the World Health Organization, dated January 8, 2022 (2 min 19 sec long) see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw2WPI4EICw> Dr. Van Kerkhove talks about why Omicron is transmitting so efficiently and how to contain the spread.

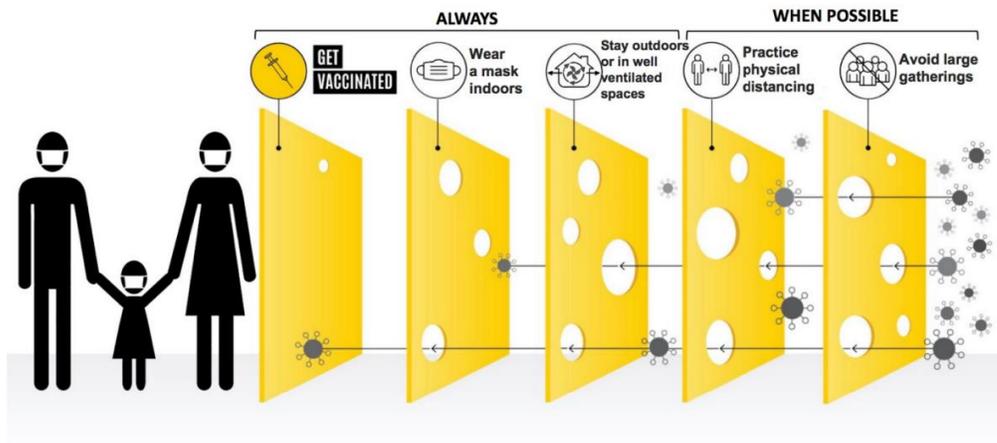
Rising numbers of sick people are putting hospital capacity at risk and are putting even more pressure on the healthcare workforce. Not only are there more people needing hospital care, but health care workers are also getting sick. Staff absenteeism is expected to keep rising and will affect operations in workplaces due to the Omicron infection and exposure, including in Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, hospitals, and schools. Healthcare workers at Dom Lipa are also being overburdened.

Swiss Cheese Model of Protection against Covid-19

Supported by stronger public health measures, our actions can help relieve this pressure and blunt this 5th wave. As numbers rise, it is worth reconsidering how we approach the next weeks.

In the face of Omicron, no single action is perfect (not even COVID-19 vaccination). Think of each action as a slice of Swiss cheese. Each slice has holes, but the more slices of cheese you use, the more holes get covered. Here is a diagram used by the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, in a presentation, dated December 16, 2021 see https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Update-on-COVID-19-Projections_English_2021.12.16.pdf).

Current public health measures are effective against Omicron



Adapted from: <https://uihc.org/health-topics/why-swiss-cheese-may-be-key-keeping-you-safe-covid-19>

17

Public Health recommends using a combination of the following actions:

- Get your 3rd vaccine dose as soon as you are eligible; and the time is now to get your 1st or 2nd dose
- Consider postponing indoor gatherings. If you do gather, keep the gathering small and attend as few get-togethers as possible (do not attend if you have any symptoms of COVID-19).
- If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19, use rapid tests (if available) immediately before any indoor gatherings and self-isolate, if positive. *Remember* that a negative rapid test does not mean you do not have COVID-19. Other layers of protection need to be used, as well.
- Breathe fresh and filtered air as much as possible: improve indoor ventilation and gather outdoors, whenever feasible. Wear a high quality, well-fitted mask indoors and physically distance (especially if eating or if you remove your mask indoors).

Together we can take care of ourselves and each other!

Happy New Year to you all. May the year bring continuing good health and many moments of joy!

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

The Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

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