



Hi everyone,

Today we received direction from our local Public Health Unit in Hamilton that additional precautions are being endorsed and emphasized for our long-term care and community congregate settings related to visiting and absences. Earlier last week we had already taken steps to limit absences from our homes as we identified increased risk with these outings related to the increases in community transmission of COVID-19. Today the Medical Officer in Hamilton, in collaboration with other local community partners is supporting this change and encouraging strict adherence to the current directives in place in addition to the following:

Short-term absences are to be restricted to the greatest extent possible. All absences must be approved by the home using a risk assessment. We ask that absences are limited to medically necessary and compassionate reasons only.

Visits are to be restricted as much as possible. At this time we are putting a pause on general (non-essential visits such as indoor and outdoor visits). We along with the Medical Officer are asking that all essential visitors limit their visits where possible.

We will continue to assess these precautions in the days ahead as we continue to monitor local cases counts and updates from our Public Health Authorities.

Please see the communication from the Hamilton Public Health Unit [here](#).

It is so important that we all continue with the diligent practices we are following to keep ourselves and one another safe. We have received a great deal of feedback on the challenges that visitors and essential caregivers were having obtaining the required COVID-19 testing. Our understanding is that systems are caught up and appointments are once again more available for booking. Please book your appointment online at www.HamiltonCovidTest.ca.

Thank you everyone for your understanding and commitment to the health, safety and wellness of our residents, clients, staff and families.

Stay well,

Steve Sherrer
CEO