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**To:** Staff (including Agency Staff) and physicians of Copernicus Lodge Long Term Care Home  
**From:** Copernicus Lodge & Unity Health Toronto Leadership  
**Subject:** Staff and Physician Update – Mar. 17, 2021

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Mar. 17, 2021

Hello staff and physicians of Copernicus Lodge,

Today we are reaching out about:

1. Staff Town Hall
2. COVID-19 vaccination
3. Updates and reminders

## Staff Town Hall

### Follow up to Mar. 16 Town Hall

Thank you to those of you who joined our Staff Town Hall yesterday afternoon. The recording from the Town Hall is accessible by clicking [this link](#).

Time code	Content
0:00-0:49	Welcome from CEO
0:49-5:08	Copernicus Lodge updates
5:08-16:18	Unity Health Toronto updates
16:18-30:24	Question and answer
30:24-31:08	Closing remarks

We have summarized the frequently asked questions about vaccines from the Town Hall below, and we have added this document to Surge Learning so it is easily accessible.

### Shifts

- We have heard from many of you that the 12 hour shifts are really taxing and that you'd like to return to 8 hour shifts
- The home is supportive of transitioning back to the 8 hour shifts
- It will take some time as we work out the scheduling logistics, but we are working on this and hope to communicate a plan and timing by next week.

### Ministry of Long-Term Care

- A compliance officer visited Copernicus Lodge on Jan. 11, and a report came out on Feb. 26.
- The report listed 9 Written Notifications, 7 Voluntary Plans of Correction and 3 Compliance Orders – two that must be complied with by April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1 due in May.

- Carmen, Ela, Antonio (from Unity Health) and Roxanne are currently developing the workplan related to the findings.
- Carmen will review the details at next week's town hall and the Public report will be shared with staff and families once it is received.

### **PPE Compliance**

- Masking and wearing your face shield is in place to keep everyone safe and to lower the risk of transmission.
- Safety is everybody's responsibility. If you see one of your colleagues not wearing their mask and face shield, or wearing it improperly, please let them know that they need to do so.
- You can escalate to a manager if you do not feel comfortable saying something to your colleague and non-compliance will result in progressive discipline.
- A reminder, for clarification – face shields are required at all times on resident care units – no matter where you are on the floor (except while actively eating in designated eating area)

### **Culture in the home**

- We understand the past year has been tough on everyone, but we must maintain a culture of respect, safety, inclusion and kindness in the home. Everybody is doing their best, and we ask that you remain patient as everyone works hard to adapt to quickly changing information and procedures.
- Copernicus Lodge is one community. All staff, including the agency staff who are working hard to share the workload and help our residents, are welcome in the home.
- A reminder that the change room and all other staff common areas are shared spaced and all are welcome.

### **Consent forms for rapid testing**

- Getting the rapid test is your way of providing consent. We are not requiring staff to sign a consent form for the rapid antigen test.

### **Next Town Hall on Tuesday, Mar. 23**

The next Staff Town Hall will be on Tuesday, Mar. 23 at 1:45pm. You can pre-submit questions to [communications@copernicolodge.com](mailto:communications@copernicolodge.com).

Zoom info: <https://zoom.us/j/96583057880?pwd=OExZLzJqV2xRZ09JWDIvWWdwSWRzUT09>

Meeting ID: 965 8305 7880

Passcode: 612937

Call-in information: 647-374-4685 and entering the meeting ID: 965 8305 7880 and passcode: 612937.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination**

### **Vaccination rates of staff**

- We are continuing to urge all staff to get vaccinated and are pleased to share an overall 13% increase in staff vaccinations.

- Currently, 26% of staff have been fully vaccinated and 10% are awaiting their second dose.
- Without an increase in vaccinations, we will be at risk for another outbreak and contagion among staff in a third wave

### **COVID-19 vaccine clinic appointments open for March 15 to 20:**

The St. Joseph's and St. Michael's COVID-19 vaccination clinics are available for booking first dose appointments from March 15 to 20. Vaccinations are an important part of our collective fight against COVID-19.

- **St. Joseph's Vaccine Clinic hours:**  
Monday, March 15 to Saturday, March 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sunnyside Gymnasium, Sunnyside Building, 1st floor

**St. Michael's Vaccine Clinic hours:**  
Monday, March 15 to Saturday, March 20, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower, 36 Queen Street East

- To book an appointment, please contact Mitzi Yu at 416-536-7122 ext. 252 or mitziy@copernicuslodge.com. Copernicus Lodge/Agency ID and a second form of Identification (Health Card, Driver's Licence, Passport, Out of Province Health Card) are required at appointments
- Staff, physicians and essential caregivers can now cancel their own first dose appointments, if needed. There will be a button/link to cancel in your confirmation message. Please note that if you do cancel your appointment, please let Mitzi know so that we can update our tracking tool.
- Please wear outdoor clothing to both the St. Joseph's and St. Michael's clinics in case you are required to wait outside for a period of time.

### **Change to timing for second doses of COVID-19 vaccines**

- Last week the Ontario government [announced](#) it would accept the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendation to change to the dosing interval for the COVID-19 vaccine. Second dose vaccinations will be rescheduled to 16 weeks after the first dose for everyone excluding:
  - Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and Assisted Living facilities.
  - Remote and isolated First Nation communities (currently supported by Operation Remote Immunity).
- This extended interval applies to the three two-dose vaccines currently approved by Health Canada (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD).

## **Updates and reminders**

### **Updates to the rapid antigen testing directive from the Ministry**

- Rapid testing is not a Copernicus Lodge or Unity Health Toronto change – this is a public health measure mandated by the Ministry that we must comply with.

- We understand the changes are coming quickly. We appreciate everyone's patience as we gather the latest information and make changes to our processes to ensure we are compliant.
- We know there were a lot of questions about whether or not you must still get a nasal swab test. **At this time, you DO NOT need to get a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab PCR test**, in addition to the 2-3 times per week rapid antigen test; the rapid antigen tests are sufficient.
- Late Monday night, the Ministry issued [updated guidance](#) around rapid tests.
- **For the time being, Copernicus Lodge will continue with the 2-3 times per week of rapid antigen testing.** Changes will require further review and discussion and we will share more communication about this.

#### How often do you need to be tested with a rapid antigen test?

- For staff (agency and Copernicus), physicians, essential caregivers, students and volunteers who have not provided evidence of a positive COVID-19 test results within the past 90 days
  - If in Grey, red, orange or yellow zones of the Ontario Framework, 2-3 tests per week are required, on non-consecutive days
- If you work 2 days in a row, you do not require a test on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.
- If you work only one or two shifts per week
  - You are required to be tested on each entry to Copernicus Lodge

#### Entry and Exit Screening Procedures

- All long-term care staff, including maintenance, housekeeping, EVS, laundry, dietary and admin, are required to enter and exit the building through 66A Roncesvalles Avenue entrance. Upon arrival for your shift please follow the procedures listed below:
  - Ensure that you wear a mask when you enter the building and do not remove it until you receive a replacement mask from the screener. No one should be waiting for entry or screening without a mask on.
  - When replacing your mask from home with the mask from Copernicus, please remove your mask, sanitize your hands, then put on the clean mask from the screener.
  - Greet the screener and provide her/him with your last name – you may need to assist them by spelling your name or holding up your badge so they can read your ID card
  - Answer the screening questions – they are required to ask you each question, so please have patience as you go through this process.
  - Take your temperature using the touchless infra-red thermometer on the outside of the screening desk and provide the screener with your temperature reading
- If you pass the screening questions, please proceed to the registration desk for your Rapid Test
  - Please provide the Registration staff with your full name.
  - She/he will register you into our system and ask you to proceed to the testing clinic or, after reviewing your information, they may advise that you do not require a test on that day.
- If you were tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, please provide the screener with a copy of your positive test result if they ask, so that we have documented evidence of the reason you will not be tested.
- At the end of your shift, please proceed to the screeners on the ground floor. We no longer require you to fill in the exit screening form. All that is required is:

- Please provide the screener with your full name
  - Take your temperature and provide the screener with your temperature reading
  - Please sanitize your hands and exit the building.
- A huge thank you to our former screeners who have been learning our new processes in record time to make your experience in the clinic as seamless as possible. We also want to thank the security team for all of their work and support as they are also learning new processes.
- Please take the time to thank everyone at the entrance and in the screening clinic for their work – it is a difficult task, often under pressure, and every kind word can make a difference in someone’s day