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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. 31, 2021

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*Mar. 31, 2021*

Hello staff and physicians of Copernicus Lodge,

Today we are reaching out about:

1. Staff Town Hall
2. Moving to new testing protocols
3. COVID-19 vaccination
4. Updates and reminders

## Staff Town Hall

### Follow up to Mar. 30 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
0:00-0:30	Welcome
0:30-2:30	Copernicus Lodge updates
2:30-22:27	Unity Health Toronto updates
22:27-23:13	Closing remarks

### Next Town Hall on Tuesday, April 13

The next Staff Town Hall will be on Tuesday, April 13 at 1:45pm. You can pre-submit questions to [communications@copernicuslodge.com](mailto:communications@copernicuslodge.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.

## Moving to new testing protocols

- Given the increase in COVID-19 cases in the community, the increased risk for severe illness from variants of concern and the increasing severe illness being seen adults under age 60, we are moving to new testing protocols next week [in line with Ministry](#) direction.

#### **What does this mean for staff, agency staff and physicians?**

- What this means is that we will move towards requiring all staff, agency staff, physicians and essential caregivers to have one NP PCR test per week along with one rapid Pan-bio nasal swab test per week.
- This means two tests per week, as opposed to the three rapid tests many have had over the last couple of weeks.
- Our plan is to do all the testing on-site for all of groups – all staff, agency, physicians and essential caregivers.

#### **When will this change take place?**

- We hope to start this change next week and will communicate when the process is firm.

#### **Why was this decision made?**

- The decision to move forward with this change is due to the increased sensitivity of the NP swab to detection of the virus and the need to ensure we reduce the risk that staff and essential caregivers may unknowingly bring the virus into the home.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination**

- We are continuing to urge all staff to get vaccinated. We are currently only at 28% of staff fully vaccinated, with another 15% awaiting their second dose.
- The St. Joseph's and St. Michael's COVID-19 vaccination clinics are available for booking first dose appointments from March 15 to 20.
- To book an appointment, please contact [Mitzi Yu](#) at 416-536-7122 ext. 252.
- The deadline for the "I Got My COVID-19 Vaccine" draw, where you have a chance to win a big-screen TV, is today. You will be automatically entered if Mitzi Yu is aware of your vaccination. Your name will be entered into a draw for a big-screen TV and additional prizes! The draw will take place during the Town Hall on April 13.

### **Updates and reminders**

#### **3N Enteric Outbreak**

- The enteric outbreak on 3N was declared over on Saturday, March 27.
- Congratulations to the 3N team for their work in ensuring this outbreak was resolved so quickly!

#### **PSW Wage Increase**

- Last week, the Government of Ontario released the provincial Budget for 2021/22.
- We are pleased that the government is extending the wage enhancement for all personal support workers in both Home and Community Care and long-term care to June 30, 2021.

- PSWs can expect to see the wage enhancement continued on their pay, and any questions related to this can be brought to the attention of Beata Krlin, Payroll Supervisor at 416-536-7122 ext. 285.

### Congregate Dining

- The leadership team has been working hard planning for a return to congregate dining for residents. This return to a new way of congregate dining takes significant planning to be done safely and involves layout redesign, cohorting of residents, and ensuring staffing and roles and responsibilities are clear.
- We are starting this week with lunchtime meals on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and will trial the process there for the remainder of the week.
- On Thursday, April 1, we will begin lunch service on the 5th floor, followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> floor on the April 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor on the April 12, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on the April 15, and the 4<sup>th</sup> floor on the April 19.
- These times may change as we learn more about the process. We will need all staff to support the process, so thank you all in advance for all your work to make these changes a success for the residents.
- The changes for resident meals will also mean changes to staff meal locations. We are investigating options and will keep you posted about changes to meal locations for staff. Carmen and Ela will ensure this is communicated to staff in daily huddles.

### Easter Events

- We are sending warm wishes to any staff who are celebrating Passover, our Hindu and Sikh colleagues who are celebrating Holi, our Catholic colleagues celebrating Easter and our Muslim colleagues who will soon observe Ramadan.
- Toronto remains in the Grey-Lockdown Zone, meaning you cannot gather indoors with anyone you do not live with. You must limit contact to your household (the people you live with) and stay at least 2 metres apart from everyone else.
- With Holy Week upon us, there are a number of events planned to help our residents celebrate this Easter season safely:

Date	Significance	Activities
March 28	Palm Sunday	Residents received a very special donation from the "Szarotki" Troop of the Polish Scouting Association of Canada of pussywillows which were blessed and given to our residents. Photos <a href="#">here</a> . Residents also received blessed palm branches.
April 1	Holy Thursday	We will have religious programming projected to all of the units for residents who we are able to bring out to the unit in cohorts

April 2	Good Friday	There will be a service projected to the TVs on each unit at 3:00pm, and we will specifically celebrate the Life of Pope John 11. We will also airing movies such as Korol, From A Far Country.
April 3	Holy Saturday	Thanks to programming staff who have prepared a basket for each of the long-term care units, residents will be brought to their doors so they can watch as Father blesses each basket on the unit. "Święcenie Pokarmów
April 4	Easter Sunday	There will be religious programming and Easter activities
April 5	Easter Monday (also known as Smigus Dyngus Day or Wet Monday)	There will be a Holy Mass followed by a number of virtual concerts and activities for our residents.

**COVID-19 in the community**

- Unfortunately, we are in the third wave of COVID-19 in the province.
- Daily cases are growing exponentially, ICUs are reaching the highest levels since the start of the pandemic, and patients are being transferred to hospitals further outside of Toronto to help with the heavy burden on our hospitals
- The growth is predominantly being driven by variants of the SARS COV-2 virus. As shared previously, the variants are highly transmissible and recent [data](#) even shows variants of the virus double the risk of someone being admitted to intensive care — and increase the risk of death by roughly 60 per cent
- While the home has been steadily out of COVID-19 outbreak for over a month now, the dangers of COVID-19 in the community are real, and it’s critical to be vigilant about IPAC measures in the home, and to follow regulations outside of work
- Please be safe, and do not let your guard down. The weather is getting warmer, and experts have advised that being outdoors is less risky (when maintaining six feet of distance) than indoors.