

Friday, January 21, 2022

Dear Residents and Families,

We remain committed to providing updates to our residents, families, and staff at AgeCare. We are providing weekly updates to keep you all informed on what is happening at our communities and organization-wide.

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We hope these weekly updates are helpful. Thank you all for your continued support.



“The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.”

- HERBERT SPENCER



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## A Shout-Out to our Educators

If you are fortunate to have encountered one of our 12 AgeCare Educators, you will no doubt have lots to say about their solid work ethic, adaptability, and their incredibly diverse proficiencies!

**Did you know that all AgeCare Educators are clinical professionals** (of varying degrees)? As a team under the adept leadership of Jennifer Grusing, Director of Education, they are responsible for all education of every employee in the organization? **So how can they possibly achieve this monumental mandate?** By applying a formula that includes facilitating, collaborating, and delivering education themselves.

In normal times (pre-pandemic), this team regularly brought employees together in classrooms and initiated plenty of out-of-classroom learning. They even instructed a dementia education course called *AgeCare Moments* that tasked staff to complete five full modules, giving them certification and advanced skills in dementia care. This was just one of the many ways they fortified and elevated staff competencies. But then the pandemic hit, and everyone’s jobs changed.

As with many with our staff, for the Education team, flexibility saved the day! They had to stop bringing people together to learn in classrooms and instead brought their expertise to the floor, becoming both teachers and implementers. Currently, they provide ongoing and in the moment training on COVID-related PPE, rapid antigen screening, and so on. And as is the AgeCare way, they are wondrous multitaskers! Jumping in to help with whatever needs to be done to serve residents at their sites – everything from dispensing medication to delivering food trays.

“They are a phenomenal group of people to work with – they just adapt and do what needs to be done. I’m so proud of my team,” said Jennifer.

## Let’s all get Boosted!

Vaccine effectiveness against infection may decline over time – especially with the highly transmissible Omicron variant – but they remain the best way to prevent severe illness and death. Additional doses can boost immunity to improve protection and limit spread.

### Who can book?

- Anyone over the age of 18, five months after your second dose.

### How to book:

- [Book online or by phone here](#) or call 811.



Visit [bookvaccine.alberta.ca](https://bookvaccine.alberta.ca) or call 811 to book your 3rd dose.



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## Visiting with COVID-Positive Residents

*The importance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*

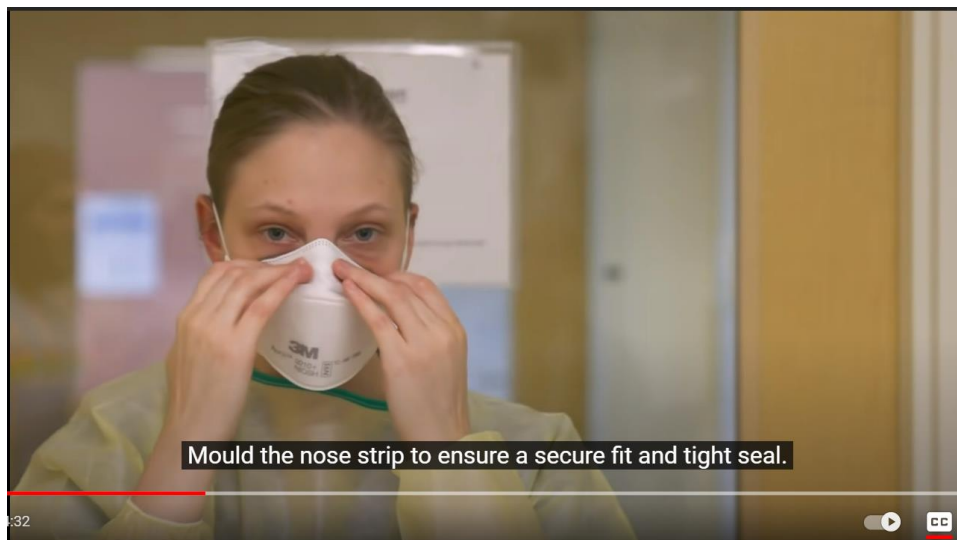
The procedure for *putting on* and removing (donning and doffing) Personal Protective Equipment (**PPE**) is vitally important in helping reduce the spread of COVID-19. Especially when visiting with residents who are on contact & droplet isolation as they are either confirmed or potentially COVID-positive.

If you are visiting with a resident on contact and droplet isolation, here are some simple but critical tips.

- beginning and ending with 20 seconds of hand hygiene that even includes your nails
- ensuring gloves extend over your gown, so no skin is showing
- removing gloves by grasping the outside edge of the glove near the wrist and peel away from the hand, turning the glove inside-out without touching the outside

We encourage you to learn the proper procedure by watching this short [Donning and Doffing PPE video](#).

**NOTE** - this video shows the use of an N95 mask. You may be provided with a medical mask, KN95 mask or an N95 mask at the site. **Please check with a member of the care team if you are unsure on how to correctly put on, seal check or take off the mask provided.**



## Visitor Guide

Our [visitor guidelines](#) with continuous masking remain in place for both Designated Family/Support Persons (DFSP) and Social Visitors.

**Remember! Help us limit potential exposure to COVID by only visiting with your loved one – not in group settings.**

### Coming for a visit?

Please familiarize yourself with these guidelines.

[Download the Visitor Guide \(PDF\) -->](#)





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## Outings & Overnight Stays

Residents are welcome to go on community walks, outings, and overnight stays as long as they follow all of the [current provincial guidelines](#).

If a resident is absent from the community for more than 24 hours, they are required to:

- be Rapid Antigen Screened (RAS) at point of entry,
- be actively screened daily for COVID-19 symptoms,
- wear a medical mask when outside of their room for 14 days post-return, and
- be swabbed for COVID-19 on Day 3 and Day 7.



All other [outings and overnight stay guidelines](#) remain in effect.

For the safety of residents and staff, please download and follow our [Outings & Overnight Stays Guidelines \(PDF\) -->](#)

## Recreation Calendars

Our recreation team works hard to create engaging activities that enrich the mind, body and spirit. We are continuously looking for ways to reduce the risk of transmission while having the least impact on our residents' well-being.

Please note that communities on outbreak may have different recreation restrictions in effect. Contact your community or [sign up for email updates](#) to stay informed on the latest information.

View the Recreation Calendars for your AgeCare Community:

<a href="#">AgeCare Columbia</a>	<a href="#">AgeCare Seton</a>
<a href="#">AgeCare Glenmore</a>	<a href="#">AgeCare Skypointe</a>
<a href="#">AgeCare Midnapore</a>	<a href="#">AgeCare Sunrise Gardens</a>
<a href="#">AgeCare Orchard Manor</a>	<a href="#">AgeCare Valleyview</a>
<a href="#">AgeCare Sagewood</a>	<a href="#">AgeCare Walden Heights</a>

## We're Hiring

Did you know AgeCare is hiring? Great opportunities for caring people. From health care aides to food services to recreation to administration and more, we are looking for dedicated and caring individuals.

If you or someone you know is looking for an exciting new opportunity, check out our careers page at [www.agecare.ca/careers](http://www.agecare.ca/careers)



**WE'RE HIRING!**  
Great Opportunities for Caring People