

Attention: Northwood Residents and Families

March 14, 2020

Northwood is activating our pandemic plan to prepare and respond to the recent Novel Coronavirus (COVID – 19). There are no identified cases of COVID – 19 in Nova Scotia to date, however there continues to be Influenza activity.

Here are the precautions we are taking:

- The Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness has restricted all visitors who have travelled outside of Canada for the 14 days following their return to the country from entering any nursing home.
- Family who have travelled outside of Canada are restricted from entering the facility for 14 days following their return. It is also important for family to consider not visiting if they have been in contact with someone who has travelled outside Canada and are having respiratory symptoms. It is important for family members/friends to self monitor for respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing. If you experience any symptoms do not visit.
- Please refer to the information attached from the NS Department of Health and Wellness on preparation measures – or visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>
- Any resident who travel outside Canada will be required to be quarantined for 14 days. This may require them to remain with family during the quarantine period, if possible, since many residents share rooms in the nursing home.
- If a resident leaves the facility to visit family or friends externally who have travelled outside of Canada they will be required to be quarantined for 14 days. This may require them to remain with family during the quarantine period, if possible, since many residents share rooms in the nursing home.

As a reminder, all visitors are not to visit if experiencing any respiratory symptoms.

The Department of Health and Wellness has not placed the same restrictions on staff. However, staff who have travelled outside of Canada are required to contact Northwood prior to returning to work. Staff will be asked if they are experiencing any symptoms and instructed on precautions to take for returning to work.

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• **Northwood is doing daily monitoring for symptoms of colds and fevers** for all residents with daily reporting to Infection Control to monitor for data collection and monitoring trends.

Family who have travelled outside of Canada are restricted from entering the facility for 14 days following their return. It is also important for family to consider not visiting if they have been in contact with someone who has travelled outside of Canada and are having respiratory symptoms. It is important for family members/friends to self monitor for respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing.

Please refer to the information attached from the NS Department of Health and Wellness on preparation measures – or visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

• **Increased Environmental Disinfection** has been implemented for frequently touched areas, such as door knobs, handrails, elevator buttons etc. Housekeepers will be regularly disinfecting frequently touched areas throughout the facilities. Common work stations or shared work spaces are to be disinfected frequently especially between use. General disinfection is all that is required.

• **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** Inventory (masks, gowns, eye shields) is monitored daily and replenishment is ongoing. We have sufficient stock to respond to respiratory illnesses. Should an outbreak be identified we will work with Department of Health to secure additional equipment if required.

Communication and Information: As the global infections continue, information is constantly changing. Information will continue to be updated on the Northwood website regularly, www.nwood.ns.ca. Northwood will continue to be transparent with information and will work in collaboration with the Department of Health and Wellness and Public Health Services.

Daily provincial updates are available at:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

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