

## HALIFAX CAMPUS UPDATE - AUGUST 18, 2020

### VISITS

Our outdoor visits continue, providing the ability to offer over 140 visits each week. Our Recreation staff and added Long Term Care Assistants continue to work within the Public Health Directives to maintain resident safety while creating the most comfortable environment possible.

We are now offering indoor visits and we are able to accommodate at least 15 indoor visits per week. We will maintain pre-screening at our outdoor screening area and visitors will be escorted to their visit on the main floor of the Halifax Campus. Residents or their SDM will designate three individuals to be permitted to visit indoors.

Visitors for both indoor and outdoor visits will continue to be screened prior to the visit and at arrival. Masks are required for both indoor and outdoor visits. We are pleased to inform you that a brief physical contact is now permitted while wearing masks and completing hand hygiene. We know people have been longing for that physical contact!

Children can attend outdoor visits if able to remain seated for the 30 min visitation. If the child cannot remain seated for the duration of the visit the parent/guardian/child would unfortunately have to leave the area for safety reasons.

Please call 902-943-0447 to book your indoor and outdoor family visits. Indoor and outdoor visits remain weekly with a duration of 30 minutes per visit.

### RESIDENT MOVEMENT

Residents are resettling with many moving into new rooms and/or neighbourhoods as we continue to increase private rooms. Residents who were in hospital prior to the outbreak are returning home as are those who decided to live with family over the past months. It is nice to have them back.

Residents are now able to independently come off their floors /homes. There are scheduled times for each floor to avoid congestion and ability to maintain physical distancing. Residents wear masks when leaving their floors and at all times when on the main street. They are able to enjoy the services of Lawley's to get take-out food, shop at Lawton's or book an appointment at the business office (bank). Each area is set up to ensure physical distancing.

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We continue to have escorted visits to the main street for those who are not able to leave the floor independently.

It is so great to see main street come to life again!

### **RESIDENT PROGRAMMING**

Recreation staff is starting to provide some small programs adhering to the Public Health directions of 10 people at maximum and with people from the same floors. This has allowed us to reopen the SEEDS for Success programming including planting outdoors.

Physiotherapy Appointments will resume in the physio gym. It will be limited due to physical distancing requirements and disinfection requirements between appointments.

Other services are continuing on floor visits and services e.g. Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Hospice, Spiritual Care.

### **HAIR SALON**

The salon is now back in operation. They will follow the Cosmetology Association requirements including physical distancing and sanitizing between each client. Residents are able to call the salon and book an appointment at 902-454-4073. We are excited to have the stylists back!

### **PACKAGES FOR RESIDENTS**

Non-perishable packages can be delivered to the front desk. We ask that perishable items not be dropped off as it may take up to 24 hours to deliver items to each resident.

### **SMOKING**

The indoor smoking rooms continue to be closed. We are trialing a scheduled approach to provide residents who smoke an area outside to do so safely.

## STAFF

Staff continue to be screened for symptoms when entering the facility, continue to wear masks at all times, and physically distance when on breaks. Regular staff are assigned to floors and any staff who float to cover shifts, when required, are assigned to either the Centre building or the Manor building.

Anyone entering a floor is required to sign in when arriving.

Our staffing levels have returned to pre-pandemic numbers, and redeployed staff from other facilities have left. Their assistance was appreciated and a pure example of Nova Scotia Strong!

People who were hired as pandemic relief have now completed their term with us, however, we have received additional funding for Long Term Care Assistants to support the screening process, family visiting, and resident engagement on the floors.

Staff who have worked hard throughout these past few months are able to take some well-deserved vacation.

## TENANTS

Tenants continue to be restricted from the main street at this time, however, our community wellness team is creating some tenant-specific programs on the manor main street. Residents do not access the manor main street.

Tenant move-ins have begun, with awaiting tenants becoming a part of the Northwood community.

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Although the Northwood community looks different there is some normalcy returning. We look forward to the time when we can have families and volunteers return. Our priority is and always will be the safety for those we serve and those who serve. It is also important to maintain a quality of life knowing the importance of resident and family connection and the benefits to everyone's wellbeing. We will and must continue to adhere to the Public Health directives while monitoring the impact on residents and relaxing the restrictions as it is safe to do so.

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