

Cleveland, Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Residents, Employees, and Family Members

**RE: SIXTY-FIRST WALES COVID-19 UPDATE**

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Dear Residents, Employees, and Family Members,

Québec Premier François Legault announced that vaccinations against COVID-19 will be mandatory for healthcare workers as the province deals with a resurgence of cases. Legault stated that we are now in the fourth wave.

The vaccination mandate applies to any healthcare worker in direct contact with vulnerable people for more than fifteen minutes. Legault will determine what steps should be followed if healthcare workers refuse vaccination through discussions with the population and opposition parties. Unvaccinated healthcare workers will be expected to receive their first dose by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and their second by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The Wales will offer vaccination on-site for any employee who is not yet fully protected.

According to Public Health, the Delta variant, which is more contagious than the original virus and the Alpha variant currently prevalent in Québec, has emerged and will likely be the dominant strain in the coming weeks. Recently, there have been COVID-19 outbreaks in CHSLDs despite residents being fully protected. During the press conference yesterday, the government stated that Public Health is considering booster vaccines for the vulnerable population and mandatory vaccinations for healthcare facility visitors.

Despite our stellar track record against COVID-19 since the pandemic's start, the Wales is unfortunately no different from other healthcare facilities and businesses in that we are currently experiencing a labour shortage. I commend our employees for their dedication and hard work to ensure that the residents do not feel this lack.

Now more than ever, we ask for your collaboration to help us protect our residents and employees. We appreciate your efforts, cooperation, and support during these difficult times. We will keep you informed as regulations change.

Sincerely,



Brendalee Piironen  
Executive Director

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