

Cleveland, Friday, January 20th, 2023

Residents, Employees, Family Members, and Volunteers

REGARDING: 149TH WALES COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Residents, Employees, Family Members, and Volunteers,

This morning, five Norton 1 and three Norton 2 residents tested positive for COVID-19. These residents will self-isolate to their rooms for ten days. No additional preventive isolations are necessary on Norton 1, however eight Norton 2 tablemates tested negative and are on isolation for five days. Norton 1 currently has nineteen positive cases and Norton 2 has three; Norton 2 therefore joins Norton 1 and Norton 3 in outbreak status.

Since our last update, five employees tested positive for the virus and three are pending results. The second employee who was asked by Public Health to be retested truly did test positive. In total, seventeen employees are off work for COVID-19-related reasons, constituting approximately seventy-six shifts per week. Due to this extreme and unexpected lack of manpower, we will prioritize essential care, therefore, some non-urgent services may be postponed, including baths. If necessary, residents may be left in their pajamas for longer periods of time than usual. Please remember that our employees are *excellent*; their compassion and hard work shines through, especially in challenging times such as now, and will make sure your loved ones are very well cared for, despite being short-staffed.

Today's meeting with Public Health confirmed that Norton 2 residents and employees will be included in Monday's mass testing along with Norton 1 residents and employees. Any resident or employee who is currently positive or those who tested positive in the last three months will not be tested. Results will be shared in Tuesday's letter. The day's schedule is as follows:

- Employees will be tested between 9:15 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. in the Mitchell Board Room
- Norton 2 residents will be tested at 1:00 p.m. followed by Norton 1 residents

Please remember that you can still visit your COVID-19-positive loved ones; you simply need to wear proper personal protective equipment. If you have not previously done so, please ask an employee on your loved one's unit; they will be happy to demonstrate. Wales visit regulations remain the same:

- Wearing a mask to enter the building
- Changing to a clean procedural one provided by the Wales at the entrances
- Keeping the procedural mask over your nose and mouth for your *entire* visit
 - As you cannot remove your mask while at the Wales, eating and drinking are *not* permitted – masks cannot be lowered for *any* reason
- Frequent hand hygiene is important, either with soap and water in the residents' room, suite, or apartment or hand sanitizer, located throughout the common areas

We will keep you posted as this situation progresses. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the coordinates below or visit our website at <https://waleshome.ca/all-the-news>. Thank you for helping keep our residents and employees safe!

Sincerely,



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Executive Director

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