

Cleveland, Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Family Members

**RE: FORTY-FIFTH WALES COVID-19 UPDATE**

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Dear Family Members,

I would like to open this letter with a positive and hopeful update. We are proud to share the following Wales vaccination statistics:

- Ninety-three **CHSLD** residents have been vaccinated. Only *one* resident remains unvaccinated due to personal preference.
- Eighty-eight **RPA** residents have been vaccinated. Only three residents remain unvaccinated due to hospitalizations and *one* new admission.
- Seven **primary caregivers** have been vaccinated.
- One-hundred and nineteen **employees** have been vaccinated.

We are extremely pleased that no residents experienced side effects due to the vaccine. This week, our Premiere announced that people aged eighty-five and over will be able to schedule appointments for their first dose, followed by those eighty to eighty-four. Our clinical team will coordinate appointments for the RPA residents who did not receive their first dose. Our Minister of Health announced this afternoon that Québec will receive 700,000 Pfizer and Moderna doses shortly. In the coming weeks, our employees will be able to schedule their second vaccine appointment; we will keep you informed of the schedule for our residents' second doses.


Please note that new regulations indicate that our residents living in CHSLD will need to wear masks when closer than two metres to an employee, including during care. Residents with dementia, including those on Norton 1 and Norton 2, and those who are incapable of applying and removing a mask independently, are exempt from this regulation. Residents are also not required to wear a mask while sleeping, even if employees enter their rooms to provide care. The Wales will ensure residents have access to masks.

Public Health authorities recommend the use of N95 masks in *Hot Zones* where an outbreak of two or more positive COVID-19 cases exists. As N95 masks must be properly fitted to ensure efficacy, the CIUSSS action plan includes "fit tests" for this type of equipment. Our Director of Health Services, Vicky Gingras, and her assistant, Erica Vander Wal, have been trained and certified to perform these tests on our employees to prepare for a potential Hot Zone. In the meantime, our employees continue to wear proper personal protective equipment.

One other new measure worth mentioning is that if a member of your household is awaiting COVID-19 test results, the *entire* family must self-isolate until negative results are received. This recommendation does *not* apply to healthcare workers.

We will continue to provide you with regular updates, and we encourage you to contact us with questions or concerns or visit our website at [www.waleshome.ca/all-the-news](http://www.waleshome.ca/all-the-news) for more information. Thank you for your continued support and understanding!

Sincerely,



Brendalee Piironen, Executive Director

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