



FAMILY UPDATE FROM VENTA CARE CENTRE

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

To our Residents and Family Members

Firstly, Venta Care Centre would like to thank you for your support and collaboration during the facility outbreak. We are excited to announce our outbreak lift date today February 3, 2021! However, we are proceeding cautiously with the continual growing prevalence and likely persistence of community transmission of COVID-19.

We know that the best way to prevent the entry of COVID-19 into long-term care settings is to limit non-essential visitors from entering the home. While it is arguable that most visits from family and friends are important to the overall health and well-being of residents, there is a greater risk that these visitors could inadvertently introduce the virus into the entire home.

Nursing home residents are at high risk for infection, serious illness, and death from COVID-19. The Center of Disease and Control acknowledges that there are COVID-19 variants and describes them as having the capability of spreading more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19.

Measures to prevent and manage COVID-19 infections in Care Homes need to strike a careful balance between maintaining the welfare and quality of life of both the people who live in the facility and the staff who work there to prevent the spread of infection.

For months Venta Care Centre has tested all residents and staff weekly for COVID-19. This allowed us to detect current infections among residents at Venta Care Centre. Viral testing is an important addition to infection prevention and control (IPC) measures aimed at preventing COVID-19 from entering nursing homes, detecting cases quickly, beginning isolation and stopping transmission. Testing will soon cease as per the Medical Officer of Health; however, Venta Care Centre would like to advocate to the **Medical Officer of Health to allow us to continue weekly testing for COVID-19 in staff and monthly swabbing for our Residents.**

Venta Care Centre would like to collaborate with families to facilitate what future visitation and protocols will look like. Moreover, we would like your input on testing for COVID-19, post our COVID-19 facility outbreak.

An emergency Resident Council meeting was convened February 2, 2021. All Residents were invited to attend, and those Residents who wanted to attend were portered to the meeting with assistance. By a **unanimous** consensus, the Residents indicated that they would like to see visitation **only in the designated visitation area**. The Residents also stated that they would like to see staff have a **swab weekly for COVID-19 and monthly swabbing for themselves**. The Residents clearly specified that they **do not want** visitors in the home (rooms) at this time.



This questionnaire was created using the Medical Officer of Health Directive and in accordance with Venta Care Centre's Safe Visiting Policy)

1. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I acknowledge that I must be screened before entering the facility

a. Yes

b. No

2. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I understand that if I do not pass the screening criteria, I will not be permitted entrance/visitation

a. Yes

b. No

3. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I acknowledge that I must wear any/ all personal protective equipment as required for the duration of my visit

a. Yes

b. No

4. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I understand that if I do not wear/ remove the personal protective equipment as required I will be suspended from visiting

a. Yes

b. No

5. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I acknowledge that I must be required to follow all physical distancing practices

a. Yes

b. No

6. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I acknowledge there are a *limited number of visitors per resident*

a. Yes

b. No

7. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I *agree to visit with my loved one only*

a. Yes

b. No

8. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I *agree that only the designated family support persons can visit*

a. Yes

b. No

9. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I *agree that there can only be a maximum of 2 visitors for each visit*

a. Yes

b. No

10. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I acknowledge that I *must come visit at an appointed time (online booking/phone)*

a. Yes

b. No

11. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I acknowledge that I must *visit in a specified location*

a. Yes

b. No

12. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, do you respect the resident's decision with continuing visits at the designated visitor area only?

a. Yes

b. No

13. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I believe that staff should have regular COVID-19 swab?

a. Yes

b. No

14. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I believe that residents should have regular COVID-19 swabbing?

a. Yes

b. No

15. To prevent the possible disease spread and for all resident/staff safety, I believe that families/visitors should have regular COVID-19 swabbing?

a. Yes

b. No

Thank you for understanding that visitations are based on risk tolerance assessment and are not constant, our philosophy at Venta Care Centre is to be proactive rather than reactive, please support us in keeping our most vulnerable populations safe.

Sincerely,

Helen Doan

Director of Nursing, Bachelors of Science in Nursing, Masters of Nursing in Leadership with a specialization in geriatrics (pending).

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All our Families/ Staff have been essential in the safety and care of all our loved ones. To ensure collaboration and transparency with the Ministers Orders, Venta Care Centre is asking you to complete a brief questionnaire by **Feb 7, 2021 at 11:00pm**. Please email completed questionnaire to cbirzgalis@ventacarecentre.com.

In addition, we will be opening up visitation bookings via telephone and online beginning February 5, 2021 at noon (Friday). In person visitations will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. At this time only the two Primary Family Designates will be allowed to visit. Please email Terra your two designates **if your family has not already chosen**. tfleming@ventacarecentre.com.

Personal laundry services will resume for all units starting Tuesday February 9th, 2021. Laundry pick up and drop off times will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. If you are a family member who has requested to do your loved one's laundry you will be required to pick up and drop off laundry on these days. Please call an hour prior to arrive for laundry pickup. Phone Number 780-377-4400.

We are committed to full transparency in keeping you informed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Helen Doan Director of Nursing 780-377-2326.

Respectfully
Dr. Peter Birzgalis
CEO Venta Care Centre



FAMILY UPDATE FROM VENTA CARE CENTRE

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

To our Residents and Family Members

Thank you to everyone who participated in last weeks survey. Venta Care Centre would like to announce that Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services- our partners in care have heard and responded to the family and resident request for having continual asymptomatic staff swabbing. There will be a staged rollout for full implementation to be in place by March 15, 2021! We will continue sending you information weekly as more information comes our way.

Again, Venta Care Centre would like to thank you for your support and collaboration during the facility outbreak. We continue to proceed cautiously with your collaboration and support as there is a growing prevalence and likely persistence of community transmission of the COVID-19 variant.

We know that the best way to prevent the entry of COVID-19 into long-term care settings is to limit non-essential visitors from entering the home. However, we are working with everyone to ensure that the residents mental health and well-being is supported.

As previously indicated, an emergency Resident Council meeting was convened February 2, 2021. By a **unanimous** consensus, the Residents indicated that they would like to see visitation **only in the designated visitation area**. We have already opened visitation bookings via telephone and online.

Venta Care centre started In person visitations this week and will continue to be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. At this time only the two Primary Family Designates will be allowed to visit. Please email Terra your two designates **if your family has not already chosen**. tfleming@ventacarecentre.com.

- If you have a in-person visit booked, please do not arrive more than 5 minutes before your scheduled time as space in the screening area is limited.
- Please note that you are required to wear a face covering upon entry into the facility.
- Please do not bring your personal water bottles/ coffee /treats into the facility.

Other housekeeping items:

- Personal laundry pick-up and drop off times will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.
- Please call an hour prior to arrive for laundry pickup. Phone Number 780-377-4400.
- Hairdressing services will commence next week (we will have more information in the next newsletter).
- This week we have Chinese New Years and a Valentines Day Celebration planned for the residents (stay tuned next week for photos)
 - A recreation calendar will be sent out to you soon.

We are committed to full transparency in keeping you informed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Helen Doan Director of Nursing 780-377-2326.

Respectfully
Dr. Peter Birzgalis
CEO Venta Care Centre



UPDATE FROM VENTA CARE CENTRE

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

To our Valued Residents and Family

Venta Care Centre would like to provide you with some COVID-19 updates and information that is occurring within the Province of Alberta.

Firstly, we would like to extend our appreciation for your continued partnership during this most unusual time of the Pandemic. Working together, we have kept our Residents and Staff safe, a huge accomplishment during which, your participation with visitation has been appreciated.

Moving forward, we are now faced with new COVID-19 Variants and unfortunately, Alberta seems to be seeing a larger spread than any other province in Canada. This week, Alberta Health Services detected 158 Variants. These Variants are showing up as the U.K. and African strains and are deemed highly infectious. Venta Care Centre continues to keep up to date and plans to collaborate with all our Residents, families, and staff on the best ways to keep all safe.

Please note that although Moderna and Pfizer reported that their vaccines are 94.5% and 95% effective. This means that people who are vaccinated are not necessarily immune to getting infected; but they are more likely to experience fewer symptoms and not get as sick as those who aren't vaccinated. Which can result in **more asymptomatic spread** within the facility.

Please note that due to a shortage of vaccines in Alberta many staff members have had their second dose injection delayed and many staff and residents are still unable to get their first dose.

Please do not assume that there is protection against the Variants. We need to move carefully ahead. There are still over 60 facilities in Edmonton currently in outbreak.

Venta Care Centre continues to follow the CMOH Orders in collaboration with staff, residents, and families. Thank you for your patience, support and understanding during these uncertain times.

Respectfully
Dr. Peter Birzgalis
CEO Venta Care Centre



FAMILY UPDATE FROM VENTA CARE CENTRE

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

To our Residents and Family Members

In positive news this week, many of the COVID-19 case numbers have decreased, however, Alberta does continue to see spread of variants of concern.

Please note that Asymptomatic Staff swabbing will begin in the following weeks, as this will assist us to ensure the safety of your loved one.

Venta Care Centre continues to follow the CMOH Orders in collaboration with staff, residents, and families. Thank you for your patience, support and understanding during these uncertain times.

Venta Care Centre would like to inform you, going forward, our COVID-19 updates will be sent on an as need basis.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Helen Doan Director of Nursing 780-377-2326.

Respectfully
Dr. Peter Birzgalis
CEO Venta Care Centre