



January 29, 2021

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

Here is an update on the Covid-19 outbreak in the Home and news about the second dose of Covid-19 vaccines for our residents.

Continuing Covid-19 Outbreak

The outbreak declared on January 9th, 2021 continues. Both 1 West Wing and Kastelic Wing are in contact droplet precautions and isolation.

Test results for staff and residents were negative earlier this week. However Public Health wished to retest some residents in a certain area, on Thursday, January 28th. We expect the results early next week.

Retirement residents are currently not in isolation and can freely move on their floor and socialize with physical distancing.

We continue to observe our residents for any Covid-19 symptoms twice a day regardless of outbreak status. We test our employees weekly for Covid-19, as recommended by the Ministry of Health and we have full compliance from our employees.

Adjusted Timing of Doses for Covid-19 Vaccinations

The residents at Dom Lipa are scheduled to get their second Moderna vaccine on February 5th. As of today, we have not been told of any changes to this plan.

Last week, we were informed that Ontario will not receive any deliveries of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine this week and will receive a reduced shipment next week. No further information has been provided for the weeks of February 8th and 15th. The timing for vaccinations is being adapted again to ensure Ontario's vaccine inventory is allocated in the most responsible way, given the short supply.

Effective January 27th, the Ministry of Health instructed all vaccination sites to schedule second dose appointments for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine 35 days after the administration of the first dose, and no later than 42 days, for all vaccine recipients other than residents of long-term care, high-risk retirement, and First Nations elder care homes. The dosing interval for residents should be maintained at 21-27 days.

This extended interval is being applied to ensure that our most vulnerable populations complete the vaccination program as quickly as possible and that the remainder of our inventory is reserved for those who have received their first dose.

The administration of first doses continues to be paused until further notice.

No Impact of the Increased Interval between Vaccine Doses

The increased interval does not have any impact on COVID-19 vaccine efficacy. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that individuals receiving a second dose may receive it within 21 – 42 days following the first dose.

See <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/01/statement-from-the-council-of-chief-medical-officers-of-health-implementing-covid-19-vaccination-in-canada--vaccine-dose-interval.html>

This expanded interval is also supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and is being adopted by other countries and Canadian provinces. Please rest assured that this does not affect vaccine safety or efficacy.

Please continue to stay safely at home and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

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