

May 5, 2022

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

In this communication, we update you on the various Covid-19 outbreaks at the Home and provide information about Dom Lipa's 35 HEPA air filters; say thank you and farewell to Director Milan Vinčec; express our condolences to the family of Stanko Sajnovič, long-time and generous supporters of Dom Lipa; and include some photos of our residents enjoying Easter activities. We end with Covid-19 related information about vaccinations, masking, and resources along with a reflection on the Ontario Covid-19 Science Table Report on Lessons Learned in Long-Term Care Homes during the first wave of the pandemic.

Covid-19 Outbreak

The Covid-19 outbreaks declared on April 20th have unfortunately spread the virus throughout Dom Lipa. Our current list of infected people includes twenty-two residents in Long-Term Care and two residents in Retirement. Those who were affected experienced mild symptoms, and many have already recovered.

Throughout this period approximately twenty employees were also infected. Many have returned to work.

We are continuing to work closely with Toronto Public Health, and residents are tested regularly.

This is a reminder that the pandemic is not yet over. It is important that all essential caregivers and visitors continue to follow all recommended precautions to help protect our residents, staff, and families. Everyone should always wear a mask while at Dom Lipa, ensure distancing of six feet from residents and other visitors, perform good hand hygiene and follow other good infection control practices.

Dom Lipa staff continue following recommendations from Toronto Public Health until further notice.

Resident Testing: All residents are regularly tested.

Staff testing: All staff have regular PCR testing.

Droplet and Contact precautions: Applies to all LTC residents and will be reassessed when day five testing returns.

Congregate Dining/ Small Group Activities: Retirement residents may continue with small group activities and congregating within their cohort (i.e., on their own floor, or in the main dining area, only with others in their own cohort).

Hallway time/Outdoor time: Supervised and scheduled outdoor time for LTC residents is permitted if staffing allows (i.e., resident must be supervised) and IPAC measures in place.

Supervised and scheduled hallway time is permitted for LTC residents who are not symptomatic or a confirmed case.

Cohorting: Reinforce the importance of cohorting of staff and residents to the unit/floor.

Visitors: Essential Care Givers are permitted. General visitors are not permitted.

Absences: Permitted for Medical, Compassionate, or Palliative Absences.

Short Term Absence - Essential Absence (e.g., pharmacy, grocery, outdoor exercise): Permitted for Retirement residents.

Short Term Absence - Social: Not Permitted.

Cleaning and Disinfection: Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces at least two times daily.

Staff working at multiple sites: If the staff has worked on a floor/unit during an uncontrolled outbreak, staff should not work at other sites. If staff has not worked during the uncontrolled outbreak, they can continue to work at multiple sites.

HEPA Filter Air Cleaning Units in Dom Lipa

Two members of the Trillium Health Partners Infection Prevention and Control team (THP IPAC) arrived on May 2nd to review the positioning of HEPA filter air cleaners to ensure the flow of air is not flowing from one resident to another. Ms. Renata Ribarič, our IPAC lead, Mr. Cris Tenebros, our Director of Care and Ms. Ana Jankovič, our Facilities Supervisor met with the visiting team to review the placement of the air cleaners. There are 35 HEPA filter air cleaning units of four different sizes around the building in the appropriate sizes to adequately clean the air in the space.

THP IPAC noted that almost all the units were already in a suitable location, venting in an optimal direction.

As the fans from these units may alter the air balance in the rooms in relation to the hallway, the air flow was checked to ensure that it is slightly negative in resident rooms in relation to the hallways – including when the door is partially or fully shut. This helps to reduce the likelihood of air which may contain organisms from the resident space, entering the hallway.

THP IPAC stated there is no need for units in private rooms and they would add an unnecessary burden of cleaning, maintenance, etc. Staff will encourage residents to periodically open windows for fresh air instead.

Farewell to Milan Vinčec, Director

Milan Vinčec has decided to step down from the Board of Directors this month for personal reasons and to have more time to continue providing musical events at various seniors' homes across the city. We are grateful that Milan will continue supporting the work of Dom Lipa with music-making and graphic design needs. We will also call on him to help with the next Lipathon musical event scheduled for the fall of 2022. The Directors and Executive Director, Jolanta Linde, express our deepest thanks to Milan for his work on the Board since June 2018 and especially for his pioneering work to create and host our Lipathon virtual fundraising events.

We wish Milan all the best in his ongoing work!

Remembering Stanko Sajnovič

Dom Lipa sends our sincerest condolences to Mrs. Josephine Sajnovič and her family on the recent loss of their dear husband, father, and grandfather. We hope that many good memories will help to sustain family and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Sajnovič have been dedicated supporters of Dom Lipa and especially enjoyed coming to the annual Dom Lipa Walk-a-Thon. At the Walk-a-Thon festivities, Mr. Sajnovič regularly surprised us with a generous donation. Here is a photo of Mr. Sajnovič with President of the Board, Maria Zajc McDonald, at the 2018 Walk-a-Thon.

Read more about Mr. Sajnovič's remarkable life at

<https://www.mundellfuneralhome.com/obituary/Stanko-Sajnovic>



Easter Activities at Dom Lipa

Our new Activation and Volunteer Coordinator, Martina Štravs, and her team have been busy with our residents over the Easter season despite Covid-19 limitations. Here are photos of residents planting seeds, colouring eggs, and baking cookies to celebrate the holidays.



Covid-19 Vaccinations Protect You and Others

Vaccination is a safe and effective way to protect yourself from COVID-19. It is important to get all the available doses including booster shots because there is declining immunity from the vaccines as time passes.

The risk of getting Covid-19 has not changed even though the government has lifted public health measures. The government's message is that we each need to start to understand the information, weigh the risks to ourselves and others, and make good decisions about safety.

We see there continues to be a growing number of people suffering from Covid-19 who also need hospital care. See the Ontario Covid-19 Science Table report of April 14, 2022 at https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Update-on-COVID-19-Projections_2022.04.14_English.pdf or see the website at <https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/ontario-dashboard/>.

Masking Is a Good Safety Precaution against Covid-19

You may be wondering if it still makes good sense to wear masks. This recent article in the Canadian Medical Association Journal confirms that wearing a mask helps to protect you and others. See <https://cmajnews.com/2022/04/29/covid-one-way-masking-1095999/>.

Online Screening Tool for Covid-19 Symptoms

An online tool helps Covid-19 infected people determine if they may benefit from COVID-19 treatment, like Paxlovid pills or other intravenous treatments. Go online for the province's new Covid-19 antiviral treatment screener available at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-treatment-screener/>. This tool is especially helpful for those who are at higher risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes.

Lessons Learned in Long Term Care during the Pandemic

The Congregate Care Setting Working Group of Ontario's Covid-19 Science Table published a report on April 29, 2022, entitled 'The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Long-Term Care Homes: Five Lessons

Learned.' Available at <https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/sciencebrief/the-covid-19-pandemics-impact-on-long-term-care-homes-five-lessons-learned/>.

The Directors of the Board thank Executive Director, Jolanta Linde, and her team for anticipating and addressing four of these five lessons early in the pandemic. They pro-actively began co-horting staff to reduce movement around the Home and sought help from Trillium Health Partners with Infection Control and Prevention measures. Part-time staff were encouraged to join as full-time staff early in the pandemic to commit to one location to prevent spread between facilities. In addition, the team recognized the importance of keeping a few rooms unoccupied to quickly transfer anyone showing symptoms from shared rooms. In addition, the team recognized the harm to isolated seniors and sought donations of iPads to help seniors communicate virtually with loved ones.

The remaining lesson to maintain the ability for essential caregivers to have in-person access to the resident was instituted as soon as Public Health guidance permitted.

Bravo, Jolanta and team for your thoughtful guidance and hard work getting us safely through the pandemic with no Covid-19 related deaths to date. The Dom Lipa community is so grateful for all your efforts!

The Directors, Administration team and staff wish you a Happy Mother's Day!

Sincerely,

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

The Slovenian Linden Foundation – Dom Lipa

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