

October 20, 2022

Dear Dom Lipa Families, Friends, Employees and Supporters,

In this communication, we invite children to take part in our upcoming Lipathon virtual fundraiser. We also provide some information about the current COVID-19 outbreak, influenza vaccines, as well as reminders about infection control practices and about leaving the building temporarily when visiting.

COVID-19 Outbreak declared – Retirement Floor

On October 19, 2022, three retirement residents tested positive for COVID-19. As of October 20th, a COVID-19 outbreak was declared by Toronto Public Health. The number has grown to twelve people testing positive, involving both sides of the Retirement Home, with many additional people with symptoms.

Given the spread, the entire Retirement Home has been put in isolation. All families (LTCH and RH) were updated by e-mail on October 20, 2022, on this emerging situation.

We continue to work closely with Toronto Public Health (TPH) in the management of the outbreak. Further in the newsletter, you will find information on the directions we have received from TPH, and we ask you to review them carefully. Updates on the current outbreak will also be posted on the Dom Lipa website at: <https://www.domlipa.ca/current-visitation-protocols-and-covid-19-information>

Lipathon 2022 on Saturday November 19th at 6 pm

Mark your calendars for Saturday November 19th at 6 pm and join hosts, Milan Vinčec and Maria Zajc McDonald for an evening of music and fun.



Do you know Tinka?

At this year's virtual Lipathon, we invite children to join the first part of the event for songs and jokes. Our special guest, **Tinka** will read out the names of children, who sent in their drawings or jokes. Children can send their submissions by email to info@domlipa.ca, or by regular mail. Please include a first name and age.

Important: We need to receive the drawings and entries before November 1st, please!

Donations have started to arrive, and we thank you for your generosity! During the evening, we will read out the names of donors who have contributed before November 19th, and as many names as we can of those donating during the event.

This year, our goal is to raise funds to help with our building repairs and upgrades. Our current expenditures come to \$575,000 for two new heating and air conditioning units to replace part of the roof and to replace the water storage tank.

To donate, please go to www.domlipa.ca and click on the green **DONATE NOW** button. *Interac* transfers are accepted; however, your full legal name and address must be included as well as telephone number and email address to receive a donation receipt for tax purposes.

Video about Dom Lipa

In case you missed seeing the video about the history of Dom Lipa, please see the link at the end of this paragraph. Vse Slovenski Kulturni Odbor, Toronto (VSKO) invited Slovenian organizations to produce a video for the Spotlight on Slovenians Project in 2021.

This wonderful 17-minute video about Dom Lipa was produced, directed, and conceived by Milan Vinčec. We are so grateful to Milan for his creative genius and hard work to produce this important historical document, which is also a tribute to the determination and vision of the Slovenian community.

You will hear interviews with Father Ivan Plazar, Mrs. Cordeau as well as Dom Lipa Staff members Kristy Turk, Office Manager and Sonja Vidovič, Former Activation and Volunteer Coordinator. You may also recognize the voice of Board Director Sylvia Soršak Kobal narrating parts of the script. There are lots of great photos of residents, staff, and events from the past and present!

Here is the link on YouTube so you can watch it again:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxrNOx9cre4>

Why it is important to get your flu vaccine

As we approach the scariest season for many healthcare workers (not Hallowe'en, but influenza/flu season), we are doing our best to be prepared. This year feels a little different and based on record numbers in the Southern Hemisphere, will likely be very busy with not just COVID-19 and the flu, but also a multitude of other respiratory viruses.

At this time last year, we did not have a busy flu season because Ontario maintained strict public health measures that prevented the transmission of all respiratory viruses. However, with the end of public health measures, increasing travel and people gathering, we expect all respiratory viruses to quickly spread this fall and winter.

Remember that your natural immunity (the protection your body develops after recovering from an infection) to all viruses other than COVID-19 is very low.

The flu vaccine will help to:

- reduce the amount of influenza circulating in our community.
- prevent people from being infected with influenza.
- reduce the possibility of acquiring both influenza and COVID-19 at the same time which may cause severe disease; and
- reduce hospitalizations and influenza outbreaks in the hospital.

The flu vaccine is strongly recommended annually for anyone more than six months old. It helps protect you and your loved ones.

Is it safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine and flu vaccine?

The Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) says it is safe to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as, or any time before or after, the influenza vaccine. This includes getting the flu vaccine between doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, such as the bivalent COVID-19 booster. If you are getting your flu vaccine at a place that also offers the COVID-19 bivalent booster, you can safely get both at the same time.

Visiting at Dom Lipa & Signing out residents – Reminder

When visiting a loved one and temporarily leaving the building together (e.g., to walk around the building, visit the park, or go off the premises, etc.), please do not forget to sign-out/in the resident in the **Resident's Logbook**, located in the lobby in front of the Business Office. This is an important element of the Fire-Safety Protocol and will help to ensure all residents are accounted for.

It is a suitable time to remind everyone about the general infection prevention protocols and policies in place. All Visitors and Essential Caregivers are required to screen upon entry and be tested. Dom Lipa's policy is permitting only vaccinated visitors inside the building.

Though the province's directives permit a single visitor not to wear a mask in the presence of their loved one, Dom Lipa's management strongly recommends keeping masks on.

A visitor may remove their mask only in the resident's room if they reside in a private setting. A visitor may remove their mask in a semi-private or basic room setting, only if the other resident is not present in the room. Should a staff member or a roommate enter the room, the visitor is obliged to put their mask back on immediately. Again, Dom Lipa management recommends masking during visits.

The removal of the mask for visitors is permitted for our residents' psychosocial wellbeing – facial recognition, emotional expressions, etc.

Directions received from Toronto Public Health

Please review the directions received from TPH for the management of the current outbreak. These directions will override general infection control practices, until the outbreak is declared over.

Droplet/ Contact Precautions (DCP) - Isolation

- All residents who are confirmed or probable cases **must isolate** with DCP, regardless of previously positive status
- De-escalation of DCP:
 - If roommates remain asymptomatic and day 5 PCR test is negative, DCP can be discontinued.
 - Remove recovered residents from DCP.

Testing

- Residents who tested positive within the last 60 days do not require PCR testing unless they become symptomatic.
- Roommates of cases are to have a PCR test on day 5 from the beginning of their isolation period.
 - DCP can be removed if PCR is negative, and they remain asymptomatic.
- Symptomatic residents and staff require COVID-19 PCR testing

Congregate Dining/ Small Group Activities

- Residents who are not under DCP can continue with group activities and congregate dining (within cohorts, if cohorts have been established).

Hallway time/ Outdoor time

- Scheduled outdoor time for residents under DCP is permitted if IPAC measures are in place and resident can follow direction (or is supervised).
- Supervised and scheduled hallway time is permitted for residents under DCP who are not symptomatic or a confirmed case

Cohorting

- Cohort staff and residents to the affected area for the duration of the outbreak.

Visitors

- Essential Caregivers (ECGs) are allowed to come into the home at any time.
- General visitors:
 - Are allowed to visit residents not under DCP.
 - Should not visit confirmed COVID-19 cases, symptomatic residents, and roommates under DCP during their isolation period.
 - Are allowed to visit any resident for compassionate reasons, including during end-of-life.

Absences

- Medical, Compassionate, or Palliative Absences – Permitted
- Short Term – Essential Absences (e.g., pharmacy, grocery, outdoor exercise) – Permitted (if not under DCP)
- Short term social absences to non-high-risk settings – Permitted (if not under DCP)

The Directors, Administration team and staff wish you a safe autumn!

Sincerely,

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

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