

## GES Bulletin

### 11 October 2021

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Happy Thanksgiving. On this beautiful Thanksgiving Monday, I am reflecting on the many things I am very thankful for in both my personal and professional life. It is truly a privilege to share in the lives of the Residents at both Greenwoods and Braehaven, to meet their families and friends and hear the richness of their stories.

It is also a privilege to work with such a dedicated caring team. With the mandatory vaccination directive taking effect tomorrow, we will be saying goodbye to some team members who have declined the vaccination. As in most communities across the province and country, we at Greenwoods have been experiencing a staffing shortage for quite some time. The mandatory vaccination order has compounded the situation.

We have worked closely with Island Health leadership over the past few weeks and are thankful for their support and creativity in ensuring all residents continue to receive the best care possible across the health authority. Over the next few weeks, health care aides (HCAs) from other Island Health facilities will be seconded to support Greenwoods. These additional HCAs will allow our core team members to step back from the many extra shifts they've been picking up and to get some much-needed breaks. We are continuing to work closely with Island Health to identify longer-term strategies to address the staffing challenges.

#### **Mandatory Vaccinations for Visitors**

In recognition of the added layer of protection provided by the COVID-19 vaccines and given the vulnerability of residents in long-term care and assisted living even when fully immunized themselves, all visitors are now required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, excluding children under 12 years of age or those with an approved medical exemption.

As per the revised directives, effective **Tuesday 12 October**:

- Visitors who do not demonstrate that they are either partially or fully vaccinated will not be able to enter Braehaven or Greenwoods.
- Visitors are required to show proof of vaccination prior to entry.
- Visitors must adhere to the following measures until they are confirmed as fully vaccinated (i.e. 7 days post the second dose):
  - Wear a medical mask for the duration of the visit
  - Undergo rapid testing at the point of entry to the facility (excluding those under 12 years)
  - If the rapid test is positive, the visitor will not be permitted to enter, and a PCR test though public health is strongly recommended

Effective **Monday 1 November**:

- Visitors must demonstrate they are fully vaccinated to enter Braehaven or Greenwoods (excluding children under 12 years or those with an approved medical exemption).

Exemptions to the requirement for mandatory vaccination may be considered on a case-by-case basis through application to the Provincial Health Officer. Guidelines for the Request for Reconsideration (Exemption) Process are posted on the Provincial Health Officer website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

As an operator, we cannot grant exemptions to the vaccine mandate except in circumstances related to compassionate care such as end-of-life care. Any exceptions will be considered on an individual case basis.

Virtual visits via Zoom are encouraged for family and friends who are not vaccinated. Please contact Erica at Greenwoods (250 537 5561 ext 230) or Lisa at Braehaven (250 to arrange virtual visits.

**Rapid Testing**

If rapid testing is required, the Resident Ambassador will provide you with a rapid test kit as part of the screening process. The person undergoing the test is required to swab their nostrils with a sterile swab and place the swab into a test sleeve. The Resident Ambassador will then complete the test.

The test takes 15 minutes and visitors will be asked to wait outside until the result is known. Once confirmed as negative, the visitor may continue with the visit ensuring that a mask is worn for the duration of the visit.

Tests are only being conducted at Greenwoods so all partially vaccinated visitors to Braehaven are asked to check in at the Greenwoods reception first.

**Residents' COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Clinics**

The vaccination booster clinics for Greenwoods and Braehaven residents will be held on Monday 1 November.

### **Residents, Family and Friends Zoom Meeting**

Our next Residents, Family and Friends Zoom Meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 October from 1.00pm – 2.00pm. The purpose of these meetings is to share information, answer questions and discuss key activities at both Braehaven and Greenwoods.

To register please click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZUlfuGsQz8jEtFGYCyPAnDQUv9w18KY1kez>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards  
Aletha

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