

GES Bulletin 26 March 2021

Changes to Visiting Guidelines – Effective April 1st

It was a year ago that we were preparing to do the almost unimaginable and close the doors of Greenwoods Long Term Care and Braehaven Assisted Living to visitors: family members, friends, and volunteers. The action seemed drastic, but it was essential to ensure the safety of our Residents and our team members.

Since closing our doors to visitors in March 2020, we have looked forward to announcing we are opening again and welcoming all visitors back. Yesterday's announcement from Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister Adrian Dix, although very welcomed and positive, moves us towards that day but we are not there yet.

The separation of Residents from their family and friends has been one of the most difficult consequences of the pandemic. We know that Residents and visitors alike are so looking forward to those long-awaited hugs and hand holding. Come April 1st we will be expanding access to visits while continuing to follow protocols to safeguard our Residents and staff, including requiring all social visits to be scheduled, conducting screening, and requiring visitors to practice hand hygiene and wear a medical mask at all times.

We will be posting an announcement on the Salt Spring Exchange with information regarding the changes to the visiting guidelines and to request that if people have a friend in Greenwoods or Braehaven who they would like to visit, that they please first speak to the Resident or the family member/friend that supports the Resident in making decisions. We are confident that by following the guidelines and ensuring the layers of protection are in place, access to visits can be expanded safely and at a pace that is comfortable for an individual Resident and their family/contacts.

Updated visiting guidelines will be emailed out and posted on the Greenwoods Eldercare Society website early next week in preparation for April 1st.

Residents, Family and Friends Zoom Meeting - 31 March – 1.00pm to 2.00pm

A reminder that a Family and Friends Engagement Zoom Meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday 31 March from 1.00pm to 2.00pm. We have missed the opportunity to host meetings in person at Greenwoods and, as it will be a while yet before we can gather in groups, we would like to connect virtually.

The purpose of this initial meeting is to provide an opportunity for Residents, Families and Friends to meet the management team and the Executive Committee of the GES Board, share updates on what is happening at Greenwoods and Braehaven, and discuss what type of meetings or forums we would like to hold on a regular basis.

This meeting is also an opportunity to discuss the changes to the visiting guidelines.

If you are interested in attending, please register by clicking on this link. You will also be able to send in questions you would like addressed at the meeting through the registration.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcO6qqD8jEtxTILDxFLrJWh2K4dkAPdgg>

Warmest regards

Aletha

Aletha Humphreys

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