

GES Bulletin

6 April 2023

Happy Easter!

I always start these bulletins by searching 'GES Bulletin' in my Google drive and downloading whatever one comes up first to use as a template. The one that came up today was from 9 April 2020 and it started with the sentence: *With the Easter Weekend and beautiful spring weather, we know how very hard it is for families and friends not to be able to get together.* Less than a month into the pandemic, we had shut the residences to all visitors and we were all physically distancing from loved ones and friends.

When writing those words in 2020, I never thought it would be three long years before our visiting protocols would return to pre-pandemic times. With today's announcement from Dr Bonnie Henry we are there – nearly!!

We welcome the news from Dr. Henry of the lifting of many protocols; however, as we know only so well, COVID is still with us. As we recently have had COVID at Greenwoods, we need to proceed more cautiously with adjusting the protocols in order to ensure the wellbeing of our residents, visitors, and team members.

More detailed updates will follow in the coming days but for now, here are the highlights.

Wearing of Masks

In addition to lifting visiting restrictions, Dr. Henry also announced today the ending of the universal mask mandate in health-care settings. It will be wonderful to share full smiles again! Given the recent COVID experience at Greenwoods though we are encouraging visitors to continue to wear masks while in the common areas.

We are not changing the mandatory use of masks quite yet for our team members. We are aiming to have revised protocols out for the team by next week, but again, given the recent COVID surge, we want to take sufficient time to roll out the new protocols and ensure everyone is comfortable of when and where to still wear a mask.

Changes to Visiting Protocols

Proof of vaccination is no longer required to visit. Active screening of visitors will stop – including the need to rapid test before visiting. Resident ambassadors will still be available to greet visitors and as always, we ask that you not visit if you are feeling unwell.

Visitors are still requested to sign-in as this is a safety precaution so we are aware of who is in the building.

There are other non-pandemic updates and exciting pieces of news to share with you but I will save those for early next week. We may not have the beautiful spring weather of Easter 2020 but I wish everyone a lovely Easter weekend. And here's to looking forward to the warmth to come and the feeling of renewal this season brings.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards
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