



# THE BETHANIA GROUP

“Bethania, a Mennonite Organization, provides compassionate, outstanding long term care and affordable housing for seniors.”

September 15, 2023

## **Reminder: COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control Measures in Bethania & Pembina Place MPCH**

Dear Residents, Families and visitors:

You may be aware that there have been COVID 19 outbreaks at 9 PCHs and in 4 Hospitals in the past 8 weeks as well as other respiratory infections such as RSV (which can have very serious outcomes for older adults especially those who are immunocompromised). To date, we have had two staff contract COVID and one Resident at Pembina Place Mennonite PCH.

With the national and international upsurge in COVID infection rates (associated with the new vaccine resistant BA.2.86 variant) Provinces are recommending that staff and visitors in Long Term Care homes ensure they are practicing proper hand hygiene, not to come to work or visit if you have COVID or are feeling ill and to seriously consider wearing a mask when in a personal care home.

Monika Warren, Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health has previously indicated that hospitals and PCHs will continue to be “mask friendly” facilities, and masks are available for any staff person or visitor who wishes to use them. In early September, Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada (PHAC) has also strongly recommended the use of masks and to socially distance when in public places, noting masking is one important layer of protection to prevent the spread of COVID 19 and other respiratory illnesses.

**Therefore, please consider wearing a mask when you visit our PCHs, transiting in hallways and sitting in common areas. We have also strongly encouraged all our staff to adopt mask use again to protect our Residents, their colleagues and their families.**

Mask wearing and visitor restrictions can of course become mandatory in the event of a future COVID19 or other infectious disease outbreak at our Homes. Please share this information with other families and regular visitors. Should you have any questions, please contact one of the undersigned. Please keep our Residents and Staff in your thoughts and prayers.

Gary J. Ledoux  
CEO, The Bethania Group

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Director of Care