



April 30, 2021

Dear Residents, Families and Employees,

As the third wave of the pandemic continues to rage, our hearts are with the people across Canada who are enduring heartbreaking distress – both those sick with COVID-19 and the healthcare providers doing everything they can to help them. We're also thinking about the people in countries like India, who are experiencing such a catastrophic public health crisis. It remains a trying time for our nation and the world, however I am encouraged by the hope that vaccines are offering for better days ahead.

Nowhere is that hope more tangible than in seniors congregate living settings like long term care homes and retirement residences, where evidence is mounting that the concerted effort to vaccinate residents and staff is paying off. Last month, for example, the [Ontario Science Table](#) reported that eight weeks after the vaccinations of long term care residents began, the estimated relative risk of COVID-19 infection was reduced by 89% in long term care residents and 79% of long term care staff. What's more, the group estimated that there was a 96% reduction in deaths due to COVID-19 in long term care over that period. These astonishing results are echoed in other analyses in Canada and other countries.

Here at Revera, we've seen a significant change in the impact of COVID-19 across our network of long term care homes and retirement residences. Rapid resident and staff vaccination, supported by our rigorous safety and infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures and the screening, testing and tracing programs we've established for our network, have resulted in far fewer outbreaks during this third wave. The plunging rate of infection amongst seniors in congregate settings has been a source of great relief for our residents and families, as well as for our dedicated staff, who showed such incredible resilience and compassion through the grueling first and second waves of this pandemic.

This new reality came about because governments across the country saw the devastation of the first and second waves on vulnerable seniors and prioritized vaccinations with the shared goal of helping to keep them safe. This collective will meant that our elders were amongst the first to roll up their sleeves, and the vast majority now have received both doses of their vaccine. As the CEO of senior care company, and as someone who has elderly parents living in a retirement residence, I am extremely grateful for this united approach.

These dramatic results should be ample evidence for anyone hesitant because they are not sure if the vaccines work. They do. They make a dramatic difference – and they are the single biggest contributor to a future in which COVID is under control.



I recently heard Dr. Nathan Stall, a geriatrician at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital and a member of the COVID-19 Ontario Science Table, speak. I'll paraphrase, but he essentially said that the safest place in Canada to be right now is in long term care. It was a powerful and poignant thing to hear, and a reflection of how far we've come.

That we are in such a different situation today is thanks to government action, vaccines, adherence to infection prevention and control measures, and the relentless efforts of people caring for seniors. We're not letting our guard down and will continue to be vigilant. As our country continues to fight the third wave, the success amongst seniors and staff in congregate living settings makes clear that change is possible. While our collective strength is being tested, our collective will is far from broken.

Be well. Stay safe. Stay strong. Continue to wash your hands and wear a mask, and when your turn comes, get vaccinated.

Sincerely,

Thomas Wellner, President & CEO, Revera Inc.