



December 7, 2020

Dear Revera Residents and Family Members,

We are in the thick of wave two of this pandemic, with lock-downs in some areas and more restrictions in others, all aimed at containing the spread of the virus. It is a universally stressful time, and I want to send along my best wishes for health, strength and courage for everyone reading this message. I also want to take this opportunity to remind you about the 3 W's - Wash your hands, Wear your mask and Watch your distance. If we all do our part, we have the best chance of protecting each other.

We are learning more and more about the COVID-19 virus here in Canada and around the world, and one thing that has become very clear is that people do not need to have symptoms to spread the virus. That means that simply asking people about how they are feeling does not go far enough. This is particularly true in congregate living settings like seniors' residences, where screening for symptoms has been a public health-mandated protocol for residents, staff and visitors for many months. It has proven helpful to stop symptomatic staff or visitors from entering the building, and to help guide isolation and testing procedures for residents, however screening alone misses many who are carrying the virus and don't know it.

In some areas, such as Ontario, public health authorities have recognized this, and have introduced voluntary surveillance testing of senior living sector staff every two weeks, and immediately when an outbreak is declared. It works. Surveillance testing has helped to identify a number of staff members at Revera's homes and residences who had no symptoms but were positive for COVID-19, allowing them to initiate self-isolation and for us to help reduce the potential for spread.

I strongly believe that surveillance testing saves lives, and it's disappointing that, though we continue to advocate for surveillance testing in every province in which we operate, not all jurisdictions have mandated it. That's why, as part of Revera's Pandemic Response Plan, we are working with a private lab to institute a Revera-sponsored voluntary bi-weekly staff surveillance program in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Revera's long term care homes and retirement residences that are not in outbreak and which have been identified as being in an elevated risk area are participating.

Our employees are part of their communities; they take care of their families, they buy groceries, they volunteer, they go to the pharmacy. Like all of us, they are living through this pandemic and doing everything they can to be careful and safe. And like all of us, it is possible that they may inadvertently pick up the COVID-19 virus – and may not be aware they have it.



Staff surveillance testing is the right thing to do, and my hope is that all provinces will move to mandating it in the near future.

Every step we can collectively take to limit the impact of COVID-19 – as we all wait anxiously for the arrival of vaccines – is important. I want to close with another reminder to please stay safe, and don't forget the 3 W's: Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Watch your distance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rhonda Collins
Chief Medical Officer, Revera Inc.