



Giving Hope Today

## The Salvation Army

### Broadview Village

1132 Broadview Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M4K 2S5  
Telephone (416) 425-1052



Dec 17, 2021

Dear Broadview Village Families, Friends and Advocates for the People we support,

We thank you for your on-going support during this pandemic crisis. As we head into the Christmas holidays, the COVID-19 trends are changing swiftly in a very challenging direction. We are sure you are aware by now of the expected surge in Omicron cases and the major risk this poses to public health but especially to our residents, our participants and our staff at an already pressured time. While we remain committed to prioritizing the Health and Wellbeing of our Broadview Village Family and prioritizing Infection Prevention and Control, we are concerned to see the positivity rate of infections especially at this time where we are planning celebrations and family get togethers. Yesterday, Public Health Ontario was reporting a positivity rate of 6.6%, the highest on a given day since May 18 during the third wave.

The impact of this Omicron COVID surge is greatly influenced by the choices and actions we take right now. Out of an abundance of caution, we want to ensure that you are all prepared for any shift in current plans. We anticipate some new restrictions being introduced, especially as we've learned that Long Term Care implemented restrictions this week. We will keep you updated as we receive new information and direction from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

In the interim, to support families more safely over the holidays, we will be utilizing rapid antigen tests to help reduce the risk of transmission and outbreaks. The use of the rapid antigen test is to enhance the screening measure to proactively detect asymptomatic or presymptomatic COVID-19 cases that would have gone undetected without the test.

All participants of day programs will be sent home with a rapid antigen test kit to be used prior to return to day program. Instructions on how to complete a rapid antigen test, frequency, waste disposal, reporting a positive result will be included in the kit.

All residents going home for the holidays and the family member picking up the resident will complete a rapid antigen test on the day of the home visit before pick up. If the test result is positive, the home visit will be postponed until a PCR lab test can be completed and the result can determine next steps. Residents who are visiting families/friends outside the normal social bubble will be sent home with a rapid test kit to be completed on the day of return BEFORE entering the group home. Instructions will be provided.

#### **Example A:** Day Program Participant

Participant A's first day back to Day Program is Tuesday January 4. He will complete the rapid antigen test in the morning before leaving the house. If the result is negative, he can resume day program participation. If the result is positive, he will need to get tested and isolate at home.

**Example B:** Resident B is going to parents' home for two days. He always visits only his parents. No other visitors will be present.



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Resident will complete a rapid antigen test before pick up. Parent who is picking up will get tested at the group home. If result is negative, home visit can proceed.

Two days later, Resident B and both parents will complete a rapid antigen test at parents' home before returning to group home. If result of one person is positive, phone the group home for further instructions.

**Example C:** Resident C is going to brother's home for dinner. The nephew and his wife will be visiting too. Resident C always visits with only the brother.

Since there is more than one social bubble, (Resident + brother + nephew/wife), Resident will complete a rapid antigen test before pick up. Brother will complete a rapid antigen test at pick up. If test is negative, visit can proceed. We will send a rapid antigen test for the nephew and wife to complete inside the brother's home.

We encourage you to consider creative ways to gather safely with loved ones such as doing an outdoor activity, meeting virtually, and sharing a meal virtually, dropping off a Christmas meal and gift to the group home, having a separate Christmas visit with just the Resident and another one with other visitors.

During an indoor stay, we strongly recommend increasing air flow by opening windows, if weather permits; eating with physical distancing of at least 2 metres in between; keeping masks on except during mealtime.

Before picking up your loved one, please read the Visitor Handbook carefully.

For our BVEP and Fee For Service Families we would like to offer the following resources if in crisis during the holidays.

- [www.ontariocaregiver.ca](http://www.ontariocaregiver.ca) 1-833-416-2273
- Mobile Crisis Program: 416-289-2434
- Lumenus intake: 416-222-1153
- Gerstein Crisis Centre: 416-929-5200

All of us, families, friends, participants, residents, staff, have worked so hard to get to where we are. So, let's remain diligent to get through another tough wave of this pandemic together.

Please take care and continue to be safe.

Art Mathews  
Executive Director

Nicole Hall  
Director-Community Programs

Miae Kim, RN  
Director of Quality, Risk and  
Education