

**To: Clients, Families and Friends**  
**CC: Staff and Board of Directors**  
From: Sherry Kerr, Executive Director  
Date: December 15, 2021  
Re: Updates and Omicron

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Merry Christmas/Happy Holiday season to everyone.

As you know Participation Support Services' main goal through COVID-19 has been to maintain a safe and healthy environment for clients and staff.

Unfortunately, a staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 and all precautions and directions from the Brant Public Health Unit are being taken.

This does mean that some clients at Bell Lane have been put into isolation for the next 10 days and PCR testing has been arranged. At this time, in an abundance of caution, the Bell Lane site is closed to indoor visitors and outside activities of all residents are limited to medical appointments.

If you have any questions, please call your Senior Care Counsellors for updates on your family member.

This is not what we wished for around the Christmas season, but as you are aware, the new variant is beginning to wreak havoc in health care and at PSS, thus we will take every precaution to ensure the safety of the residents/tenants and clients supported.

It is also anticipated that new guidelines will be released regarding visitors to Long Term Care/Retirement Homes. As in the past we have used these guidelines to develop guidelines for the Bell Lane, Stedman House, and Colborne Street locations. I will circulate any new policies once the new guidelines are reviewed, and updates will be circulated.

I also want to highlight that the staffing/PSW crisis, in part due to funding constraints, continues to have a negative impact on Participation Support Services' ability to provide high quality care. Participation Support Services continues to advocate individually and with Provincial partners.

Again, please feel free to reach out to me [skerr@pssbrantford.org](mailto:skerr@pssbrantford.org) at any time with any questions or concerns.

With Regards,

Sherry R. Kerr, Executive Director