

Dear residents and families,

We know you have many questions and concerns about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how the spread of this virus may impact you and your loved ones. The Department of Health and Wellness, Nova Scotia Health Authority, long-term care facilities, Emergency Health Services, physicians and other care providers are working closely together to protect Nova Scotians, contain the spread of the virus and to ensure care needs are met.

During this period it is important that you and your family stay well informed. There are several trustworthy sources that you can access. For all up-to-date information around COVID-19 cases and resources visit www.novascotia.ca/coronavirus or call the federal government's COVID19 hotline at 1.833.784.4397. We also encourage residents and their families to visit <http://www.nshealth.ca/continuing-care> to view additional resources as well as sign up for email alerts for information regarding NSHA Continuing Care programs and services.

Together we can do our part to slow the spread of this virus, protecting ourselves and our loved ones as well as our health care workers. As you may know, a provincial state of emergency was declared on March 22, 2020. This was necessary to protect all Nova Scotians, especially those who are most vulnerable, from the spread of COVID-19.

In order to protect you and your loved ones living in long-term care facilities, the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a written order under the Health Protection Act which **restricts the movement** of all residents in nursing homes and residential care facilities to the

facility itself and the grounds of the facility. This means families are unable to take loved ones out in the community.

This same order **prohibits visitors** in all nursing homes and residential care facilities except under exceptional circumstances (for example, limited visitation in a resident's final days). This order remains in effect until further notice.

We know it is very hard to not be able to spend time in person with the people you care most about. That is why government is looking at options to make it easier for you to connect with your loved ones using technology. We appreciate your patience during this difficult and uncertain time. It is a difficult time for everyone, but if we all do our part, we will reduce the spread of the virus and life will return to normal sooner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Stevens".

Susan Stevens

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula Langille".

Paula Langille