

resident, family, and staff update

January 8, 2021

Dear families, residents, and staff,

We hope you enjoyed the special programming from Telus Health, the Citadel Theatre, the Calgary Philharmonic, and performer Matt Day during the Christmas period. We are grateful for the support of these organizations and individuals who recognized the toll the pandemic has had in seniors care and worked with us to provide theatre and musical performances.

Since our last comprehensive update to you on November 29, seven more Covenant Care residents have died as a result of COVID-19, all at Centre de Santé Saint-Thomas in Edmonton. We are deeply saddened by these losses. Our thoughts are with the families. We are mourning together and praying that the families find a sense of peace during this difficult time.

We feel it is important to acknowledge that three health care workers who shared their expertise and gifts in seniors care have passed away due to COVID-19. While none of the individuals were part of the Covenant Care team, these losses underscore the sacrifice all health care workers have been making for the better part of a year in offering compassionate care for individuals under very difficult circumstances. We have said this time and again and it holds true today as it has every other day: we are so grateful for the Covenant Care team. You have shown tremendous calm, confidence, and perseverance through uncertainty and outbreaks, always focusing on the individual in front of you who requires your skills and talents. We are blessed to have a full complement of staff who recognize that health care is a healing ministry, one that starts with a spiritual purpose that cares for people body, mind, and soul.

The new year has brought with it, a sense of hope in the form of vaccinations to protect us against COVID-19. We are working closely with Alberta Health Services and vaccines have already begun to be administered at some of our centres. Alternate decision makers are required to provide consent for residents who are not their own decision-maker; alternate decision makers will receive more information on this. Please note that hospice residents will not be receiving the vaccine. The province has articulated guidelines related to prioritizing when staff will receive the vaccine. Staff who work closely and directly with people who are vulnerable to COVID-19 will receive priority and will be contacted by Alberta Health Services directly. Information on the available vaccines is on the Alberta Health Services [website](#).

Thank you to residents, families, and our teams for your continued patience and understanding.

Please contact your Site Administrator at any time with your questions or send them to us at admin@covenantcare.ca. Daily updates for our centres is located on [covenantcare.ca](https://www.covenantcare.ca).

Please do all you can to remain healthy and safe,

Derrick Bernardo
President

JoAnn Molloy
Vice-President, Resident Experience