



Dear Markhaven family members,

Markhaven management would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during this most recent suspected outbreak. As you are aware there have been changes to the directions from the Ministry of Long Term Care in regard to 'Short Term and Temporary Absences'.

Short Stay Absences has been expanded from health care visits, to include social visits. For a short stay absence, the resident is not permitted to stay overnight for a social visit. When leaving the home, the resident will have to follow universal masking directions and physical distancing. When residents return to the home the guidance is the resident is not required to self-isolate but again be screened. We ask families to allow the home for the safety of the other residents and staff, to take measures to prevent potential risk of re-entrance of COVID-19 in to Markhaven, to allow for self-isolation of resident under these circumstances. With short stay absences the home is unable to monitor and confidently determine if exposure occurred outside the home, and for this reason and due to the possibility of a second wave and increased community based transmissions, we request self-isolation and swabbing for any short stay absence for all residents.

For residents going on a Temporary absences with families for an overnight stay the resident on leave must follow universal masking directives and physical distance. The home must be informed prior to a temporary leave and discuss sleeping arranges, and type of social setting (ie. Family party size in compliance with Markham bylaws, and provincial guidelines/Ministry of Health guidance). The home reserves the right to refuse temporary absence request and will review on a case by case basis and will follow guidelines directed by the Ministry of Long Term Care.

The home does approach this change cautiously as the more families which participate in 'Short Stay Absences' and 'Temporary Absences' directly could impact the health and safety of the residents and staff of Markhaven. The home ask for adequate notice to discuss and review family's plans, and to ensure education is provided to all involved parties.

Any families who do not adhere to the homes policies and procedures and staff requests to meet the highest of IPAC measures, and safety of residents and staff will be unable to have further visitations with their loved one. The home will work with families to meet these standards but if further non-compliance occurs access to the facilities could be prohibited during the pandemic.

Thank You,

Kevin McKay
Director of Care