



A Caring Christian Home

Calvary Place Personal Care Home

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Dear Friends & Family of Calvary Place:

I was reading an article this morning entitled “We have a Case,” which was a perspective from Dr. Brent Roussin and Lanette Siragussa as they recalled the pandemic’s emergence in Manitoba. According to the article, Siragussa received a text message from Dr. Brent Roussin at 8:04 which contained only four words, “We have a case.” Manitoba had its first case March 12, 2020. It was interesting reading the article from their perspective and what they had to deal with.

I recall on March 17, 2020, putting up posters at Calvary Place that effective on that date at 4:00pm, Calvary Place’s doors would be locked and no visitors would be allowed to enter the facility. No visits would be allowed from families, visitors and non-medical service providers until further notice. All of use became more than familiar as to what Routine Precautions referred to (washing our hands and keeping them out of our eyes, nose and mouth. Due to the sudden high demand for disinfectant wipes, face masks, isolation gowns, hand sanitizers, and difficulty obtaining sufficient stock, these products were placed in my office for closer monitoring to ensure we could keep up with the demand required for staff.

Very little was known about COVID-19 in March 2020 and it appeared information was changing as fast as it was being sent out. I vividly recall where I was when I received notification of Calvary Place’s first possible case. The date was September 29, 2020 at 6:30pm, and I was in the middle of a course I was taking via Zoom. Both my cell phones were buzzing and I received a High Importance email. I had to excuse myself from the course (eventually had to drop out due to the demand of dealing with an outbreak), and headed back to work that evening along with our Infection Control Practitioner. I recall feeling somewhat unsettled as this was new territory for me, which no amount of education had prepared me for (entering the unknown). Since September 29th, it is amazing how far we have come and how much we have learnt. I have said this many times and will mention it again, staff at Calvary Place are, and have been, exceptional. We have been extremely fortunate that not one resident who ended up with COVID-29, succumbed to the virus. We have a lot to be thankful for. The whole world has had to change and what we used to take for granted (grocery shopping and buying toilet paper), changed drastically. (Who would have thought that toilet paper would require a Security Guard to control the over-buying of the product?) Who would ever had thought that entering a store, and especially a bank, wearing a face mask would become normal?

Even though it proved challenging to keep up with all the changes, requirements and expectations, some good did come out of it. We have all learnt how to adapt to change, and we have come to realize what is really important to us. We are thankful for family connections; friends, technology to help us keep connected; health and safety; having a job, to name but a few. We have learned new ways to connect with people, attending Zoom Meetings and Microsoft Team Meetings has become the new norm for many of us. Church attendance, whether by Zoom or YouTube, has increased; more people are enjoying nature and going for walks; the world is healing itself in some areas; and we are learning to do more with less.

What are our next steps? We continue to have no resident or staff cases. We are continuing to adapt to change and modify our routines to ensure we are in compliance with required Infection Control Practices. Screening of staff and visitors continues. Our Indoor Visitation Rooms are available for utilization for visits and can be booked via Calvary Place's website. We continue at this time to have an ample supply of disinfectant wipes, masks, gowns as well as hand sanitizer. In regards to resident vaccinations, another round will be taking place within the next week or so for new admissions or who were away during the last round. All staff continue to wear medical masks as well as eye protection and daily compliance audits continue.

Thank you all for your continued support and assisting us in keeping residents and staff safe. Stay safe

Sincerely

Helmut

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