



DEAR RESIDENTS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS:

The holidays are now upon us and we'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful, festive start to the season.

This truly is one of the most special times of the year, when we get to celebrate together with family and friends, eat turkey, sing carols and be merry. However, this year our holidays will look and feel different. Premier Doug Ford has asked that Ontarians celebrate the Christmas holidays with people within their own household and to connect with other family and friends virtually.

This includes our residents here at Palisade Gardens and James Club. Residents are not permitted to leave the premises due to the mass spread of COVID-19 and instead will need to celebrate the same way all Canadians will - at home, safely protected in our bubbles.

For those following the pandemic you know the second wave is hitting the country hard, especially here in Ontario. Previously the notable hot spots were concentrated in long term care facilities, however this time around infection and death rates are highest in retirement homes, nearly double in fact. According to data we pulled from ORCA, retirement homes added 1,053 total cases between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1., and of those cases 653 were among residents and 400 among staff. These statistics are nothing short of alarming and so we want to remind everyone how important it is to follow all safety measures when leaving your suites.

There's no doubt it takes strength to sacrifice yet another holiday, even if it does mean you'll be doing your part to protect the community. Which is why we'd like to do our part to help you celebrate a bit differently this year. Please email Brittany Barbisan at activity@palisadegardens.ca to coordinate a virtual gathering for you, your family and friends. Virtual gatherings are the perfect way to host a holiday get-together while remaining physically distanced. Brittany can arrange all of the details so all you need to do is show up!

Before signing off, we'd like to reiterate how important it is to remain here at Palisade Gardens and James Club this holiday. While it will be different and not how you'd normally choose to celebrate, remaining here will ensure our bubble is protected. The good news is that all of our wonderful residents won't be alone, they will have each other, the community and our staff who will be doing all they can to keep spirits high. We'll have a vaccine soon and life will slowly go back to normal, until then we want to thank you for your support.

Wishing you all a magical holiday and a beautiful New Year ahead.

Sincerely,

Jason Mercier, Director of Operation, Retirement Life Communities Group of Companies, and
Micki McLean, General Manager, Palisade Gardens and James Club Retirement Residences