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March 21, 2022

Dear Residents and Families,

As Passover approaches, we want to share our plans for celebrating with our residents, in light of the precautionary measures we are taking during COVID-19. Keeping everyone on our campus safe is our top priority.

In line with guidance from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, Baycrest will continue to act out of an abundance of caution. With key public health and healthcare indicators continuing to show signs of improvement, the Ontario government is cautiously and gradually lifting temporary public health measures at long-term care homes. To view the Government's news release on lifting restrictions, click [here](#).

The following measures that are in place for long-term care that can impact Passover planning include:

- General visitors five years and older must provide proof of at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and perform a rapid antigen test on-site before starting their visit.
- General visitors between two and five years old are required to perform an on-site rapid antigen test before the start of their visit.
- Four visitors may be on-site with the resident at a time, inclusive of caregivers.
- Residents are able to enjoy day and overnight social absences, regardless of vaccination status.
- Small group activities have a maximum capacity of 18 people in recreation rooms, as per infection prevention and control (IPAC) safety measures.

In light of these measures, families are asked to plan their visits during Passover to ensure family members comply with the maximum limit per visit. As the Ministry of Long-Term Care still requests that large group activities continue to be avoided, Baycrest is unable to reintroduce our communal Seders.

At Baycrest, we are doing everything we can to ensure that our residents experience a warm, home-like setting filled with the observance of familiar traditions. On Passover, all Apotex residents will have the opportunity to participate in Seders in their respective dining rooms. As part of the Passover meals served on April 15 and 16, Baycrest will be inviting community members and Tanenbaum CHAT high school students to facilitate abridged Seders.

As a faith-based organization guided by the principles of Judaism, we know the importance of celebrating and coming together in moments of hardship. Celebrating Passover is of the utmost importance for our community. Throughout Passover, staff will also provide programs for all residents to celebrate the holiday. Programs include concerts, Seder-style programs, discussion groups and more.

Please note that Baycrest is diligently planning for Passover, in line with directives from the Ministry of Long-Term Care and Toronto Public Health. As permissions and/or restrictions continue, we will update our plan and provide continued communication to our residents and their families. Please refer to resident and caregiver newsletters and notices placed on recreation boards, elevators and nursing stations for continued communication.

We want to thank you for your cooperation as we continue to implement important measures to support the health and safety of our residents. If you have any immediate questions, please speak to a member of your care team.

Sincerely,

**Deb Galet**  
Vice-President, Long-Term Care,  
Ambulatory, and Chief Heritage Officer  
Baycrest Hospital

**Rabbi Dr. Geoffrey (Rav Gedaliah) Haber**  
Director, Department of Spiritual Care  
Baycrest Hospital