

Dear Residents and Families,

The Cove is partnering with researchers at Nova Scotia Health in a study called:

**“Do far-UVC light devices reduce the incidence of influenza-like illnesses, respiratory illnesses, and COVID-19 infections in long-term care facilities?”**

It can be hard to prevent the spread of viral respiratory infections (like influenza and Covid-19) within long-term care. In this study we hope to reduce infections among residents through the use of safe low-dose ultraviolet light called far-UVC. This is a very “low dose” of light which is strong enough to kill viruses living in the air and on surfaces like walls and tables, but not strong enough to damage a person’s skin or eyes. This study will test if this light can be used as an extra method of disinfection in addition to the usual manual cleaning that is already being done at long-term care facilities in Nova Scotia.

Because the Cove is participating in this research, special ceiling study lamps will be installed in the common areas of all units; Skylight, Spanish Bay, Creative Care, Ceilidh and Orchard. All the lamps will look the same, but some of the residential units will have lamps that produce “active” far-UVC light. The other residential units will have “non-active” or placebo lamps that produce regular fluorescent light. This fluorescent light looks the same as far-UVC light but has no effect on viruses.

We are asking for consent from residents (or their substitute decision maker) so that the Cove’s study nurse will be able to collect personal health information during the study period. As with all research, participation is completely voluntary. If you do not want to have health information collected, you can say no to this study and it will not affect the care that residents receive in any way.

To learn more about the study and discuss consent, please contact a member of our Far-UVC team:

**Samantha** (Research Coordinator) at **902-473-7295** or [UVCLightStudy@nshealth.ca](mailto:UVCLightStudy@nshealth.ca)

**Hailey Reel** at **902-539-5267 ext. 230** or [hailey@coveguesthome.com](mailto:hailey@coveguesthome.com)

Thank you for your consideration,

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