

Nithview Community Long-term Care and Retirement Visiting Policy **Revised June 30, 2023**

This policy intends to communicate the requirements of the Minister's Directive: Covid-19 response measures for long-term care homes under the Fixing Long-term Care Act 2021; and the Covid-19 Guidance: Long term care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units.

In the Policy, LTCH refers to Long Term Care Home, Retirement Home, and Tower Apartment Residents as they are co-located.

1. Visiting

Essential Visitor (Caregiver) Designation:

Essential visitors continue to have access to the home at all times.

- The designation for an Essential visitor which includes caregivers, support workers, persons visiting for compassionate reasons (including end of life care) continue to have access to long-term care homes during an outbreak must be submitted in writing to: Retirement: Candi McGraw and Long-Term Care: Sasha Craig
- The decision to designate someone as a caregiver is entirely remitting of the resident or the Substitute Decision Maker.

A General Visitor: A General Visitor is a person who is not an Essential Visitor and visits:

- For social reasons (e.g., family members and friends of resident);
- To provide non-essential services (may or may not be hired by the home or the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker); and/or
- As a prospective resident taking a tour of the home.

Homes must follow the direction from their local public health unit during an outbreak, which may include advising general visitors to postpone all non-essential visits, per the COVID-19 Guidance for Public Health Units: Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and other Congregate Living Settings.

B. Visiting Requirements

TCMH strongly encourages all visitors to be fully vaccinated and remain up to date with COVID-19 Vaccinations.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#)

[COVID-19 vaccines | ontario.ca](#)

If the Home goes into an outbreak or there are changes to the Guidance as set out by the Ministry of Long-Term Care, Essential Visitors and care service providers will be notified and updated accordingly.

2. Passive Screening

All visitors must complete screening survey questions and sign in on the iPad, located at the front entrance. This will include:

- The name and contact information of the visitor
- Time and date of the visit
- The purpose of the visit

Visitors must review signage at entrances.

Visitors who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or had a potential exposure to COVID-19, and have screened positive should:

- Not enter the home
- Be advised to follow public health guidance

3. Absences-

During a Public Health declared Outbreak or if a resident is in isolation under additional precautions, absences are at the discretion of the Home with Public Health Guidance.

4. Personal Protective Equipment

Masks

- Masks are recommended but not required, in all areas of the home.
- Caregivers and visitors may now join in Recreation Activities with their loved one(s) in available resident space (i.e. resident room, visitor rooms).
- Homes are encouraged to implement “mask friendly” environment, including accommodating:
 1. Staff who prefer to continue to wear a mask beyond minimum requirements, and
 2. Residents, or POA’s, who request that a staff member wear a mask when providing care, in alignment with the Residents’ Bill of Rights, including the right to participate fully in making any decisions concerning any aspect of their care.

Exceptions to the masking requirements are as follows:

- Children who are younger than 2 years of age.
- Any individual (visitor or resident) who is being accommodated in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005; and/or
- Any individual (visitor or resident) who is being reasonably accommodated in accordance with the Human Rights Code.
- If a resident is self-isolating, symptomatic or COVID positive, signage indicating level of precautions needed will be posted as determined by the Infection Prevention and Control Lead of the home.

Infection control practices, such as hand hygiene, must continue to be followed in communal spaces.

Dining:

- Caregivers and visitors may now join in sharing a meal with their loved one(s) in available resident space (i.e. resident room, visitor rooms).
- Outside food cannot be brought into the Resident Dining Rooms.
- Caregivers are welcome to accompany a resident in the Dining room to support, but guest meals will not be available.

Activities:

- Caregivers and visitors may join in group recreation programs including those that include food and beverages.

Appendix A

Definitions:

Essential visitors:

“essential visitor” means,

- (a) a caregiver,
- (b) a support worker who visits a home to provide support to the critical operations of the home or to provide essential services to residents,
- (c) a person visiting a very ill resident for compassionate reasons including, but not limited to, hospice services or end-of-life care, or
- (d) a government inspector with a statutory right to enter a long-term care home to carry out their duties.

Caregiver

“caregiver” means an individual who,

- (a) is a family member or friend of a resident or a person of importance to a resident,
- (b) is able to comply with all applicable laws including any applicable directives, orders, guidance, advice or recommendations issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or a medical officer of health appointed under the Health Protection and Promotion Act,
- (c) provides one or more forms of support or assistance to meet the needs of the resident, including providing direct physical support such as activities of daily living or providing social, spiritual or emotional support, whether on a paid or unpaid basis,
- (d) is designated by the resident or the resident’s substitute decision-maker with authority to give that designation, if any, and
- (e) in the case of an individual under 16 years of age, has approval from a parent or legal guardian to be designated as a caregiver.

Appendix B



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Droplet and Contact Precautions Acute Care Facilities

This document was adapted from Public Health Ontario's [Routine Practices Additional Precautions](#) for management of COVID-19 for health care workers. For more information, please contact the Infection Prevention and Control department at Public Health Ontario at ipac@oahpp.ca.

Hand Hygiene

- Before and after each patient contact.
- Before performing aseptic procedures.
- Before preparing, handling, serving or eating food.
- After care involving body fluids and before moving to another activity.
- Before putting on and after taking off gloves and other PPE.
- Before and after personal body functions (e.g., blowing one's nose).
- Whenever hands come into contact with secretions, excretions, blood and body fluids.
- After contact with items in the patient's environment.
- Whenever there is doubt about the necessity for doing so.



Patient Placement

- Single room with own toileting facilities.
- Whenever possible, for aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs), perform the procedure in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) with the door closed.
- If an AIIR is not available a single room, with the door closed, may be used to perform an AGMP.



Environment and Equipment

- Dedicate routine equipment to the patient (e.g., stethoscope, thermometer).
- Clean and disinfect all equipment that comes out of the room.
- All high-touch surfaces in the patient's room must be cleaned daily.



Appendix C



COVID-19 Safety Measures: What You Can Expect in Your Long-Term Care Home



(Updated on June 26, 2023)

All residents are invited to*

- Spend time with visitors and caregivers without wearing masks.
- Enjoy the company of visitors, indoors or outdoors, consistent with your home's visitor and/or vaccination policies.
- Participate in group social activities, including games, clubs and exercises.
- Have meals in the dining room, including buffet and family-style meals together with their caregivers and visitors.
- Leave the home for all types of absences, including social day and overnight absences, and not have to be actively screened, tested or isolated upon return to the home.
- Request that a staff member wear a mask when providing care, and LTC homes are recommended to accommodate this request.

*Unless otherwise directed by the local public health unit, during outbreaks in the home or when isolating

What measures are in place to make my long-term care home safe?

- Everyone must screen for symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19*.
- Residents will be monitored daily for infection.
- Staff, students, support workers and volunteers are required to wear masks and appropriate personal protective equipment if there is a risk of exposing themselves or others to an infection.
- Caregivers and general visitors are recommended, but not required, to wear a mask.
- Infection prevention and control measures continue to be followed, including hand washing and enhanced cleaning.

*Individual homes may have their own additional policies for screening and testing requirements

References

- Minister's Directive: *COVID-19: Long-term Care Home Surveillance Testing and Access to Homes*, Effective: August 30, 2022. [Minister's Directive COVID-19 Response Measures for LTC Homes](#)
- Ministry of Health, COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance, Version 6.0 – April 6, 2023. [COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance](#)
- Ministry of Long-Term Care, *COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario version*, Effective June 26, 2023. [COVID-19 Guidance Document for long-term care homes](#)
- Ministry of Health *COVID-19 Guidance: Long Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes, and other Congregate Living Settings for Public Health Units Version 11*, June 26, 2023. [COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Other Congregate Living Settings for Public Health Units](#)
- Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility COVID-19 Guidance Document for Retirement Homes in Ontario Version 4 – March 26, 2023 [MSAA COVID-19 Guidance Document for Retirement Homes in Ontario](#)
- Ministry of Long-Term Care, COVID-19 Policies: What Resident Can Expect in their Long-Term Care Home. June 26, 2023. [What Residents Can Expect](#)