

Origination 07/2020
Last Approved 05/2025
Last Revised 05/2025

Area LTC Infection Prevention & Control
Applicability LTC Infection Prevention & Control
References BC

Visitor Protocols (Viral Respiratory) (BC), IX-N-10.46

POLICY:

To ensure a safe environment that follows provincial requirements, this policy and procedure provides guidance for visitors in accordance with regulatory directives.

Visitors must adhere to the following measures:

- Undergo passive screening requirements upon entry to the community.
- Not visit if they are ill.
- Active screening as required by provincial guidelines.

Visitors are not required to be vaccinated but are encouraged to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends getting the updated COVID-19 mRNA vaccine at least 6 months after your last dose of COVID-19 vaccine and/or COVID-19 Infection.

PROCEDURE:

The Executive Director or designate will:

1. Ensure there are designated outdoor and indoor areas for residents to visit together with friends and family.
2. Establish the flow of team, resident, and family movement to and from the visiting areas, ensuring minimal traffic through the location / resident home areas / neighbourhoods.
Note: May use Ministry of Health (MOH)/Public Health/Health Authority resources and checklists.
3. Ensure alignment with social visitor requirements within the community in resident room/

outdoor space designated.

4. Ensure processes are in place for visitors to sign in and conduct passive screening upon entry to the community.
5. Consider the indoor and outdoor physical layout of the community when implementing safety precautions.
6. Encourage the use of resident home area/neighbourhood spaces attached to outdoor spaces for visits to occur.
7. Ensure privacy for the resident and family during visits.
8. Communicate with residents and families the process for visits, prioritizing emotional and/or clinical decline of residents.

The Housekeeping Team or designate will:

1. Ensure enhanced cleaning of all high touch surfaces twice daily and when visibly soiled with hospital grade disinfectant.

The Director of Resident Programs or designate will:

1. Be accountable for the process of coordinating visiting protocols.
2. Provide education to visitors on Infection Prevention & Control (IPAC) practices such as respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), maintaining IPAC measures in place when a resident is on additional precautions.
3. Ensure the visit is documented in the resident's electronic health record.
4. Communicate visiting hours. Visits may be rescheduled for the following reasons:
 - The community goes into outbreak
 - Resident is experiencing symptoms or is self-isolating
 - Other emergencies (i.e. Code Red)

All Team Members will:

1. Participate in and support visiting of residents as needed.
2. Guide any visitor with PPE utilization as needed.
3. Seek support from nurse in charge and/or manager(s) to address questions and concerns, including immediate advice to support individual resident and family needs.

The Visitor will:

1. Conduct visits during visiting hours communicated by the community. The community may set capacity limits to the maximum amount of visitors as per WorkSafeBC and Public Health Officer safety plans.
2. Participate in the passive screening process.
3. Wear all required PPE in accordance with additional precautions (i.e. contact, droplet, airborne) that may have been initiated for a resident.
4. Comply with Infection Prevention & Control (IPAC) education to ensure full compliance to

visiting policy requirement, provincial directives, and IPAC practices.

5. Sign in and undergo passive screening for signs and symptoms of illness of respiratory and gastroenteritis symptoms during the visits.
6. Adhere to additional IPAC measures as directed by Public Health.

Masking Recommendations for Visitors:

- Visitors are recommended to wear a medical mask when participating in indoor group events, celebrations, gatherings, and activities, except when eating and/or drinking.
- Visitors visiting residents who live in single-bed rooms are not required to wear a medical mask when visiting directly with one individual resident in a single-bed room.
- Visitors visiting residents who live in multi-bed rooms are not required to wear a medical mask when visiting directly with one individual resident (visitor must only visit with their loved one).
- Visitors are recommended to wear a medical mask over their nose and mouth for the duration of all visits if visiting directly with more than one resident during a single visit (e.g. spiritual care by a faith leader).

NOTE: Any non-compliance with the visitor responsibilities in this policy will result in a discontinuation of the visit for the non-compliant visitor.

References:

- COVID-19 guidance in B.C. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/proof#card>
- Immunization Records Sample Canada, COVID-19 BC. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/covid-19/immunization/immunization-record-examples/immunization_record_samples_canada.pdf

Attachments:

IX-N-10.46(a) Visitor Guidelines (BC)

IX-N-10.46(b) Resident LOA Checklist – AL/IL (BC)

All Revision Dates

05/2025, 01/2025, 04/2024, 10/2023, 04/2023, 01/2023, 11/2022, 10/2022, 03/2022, 01/2022, 10/2021, 07/2021, 06/2021, 04/2021, 03/2021, 02/2021, 12/2020, 11/2020, 10/2020

Attachments

[!\[\]\(b792654f2cef9719eabeb6c5be00811e_img.jpg\) IX-N-10.46\(a\) Visitor Guidelines \(BC\)](#)

[!\[\]\(7d1d6890825e83a6a4a51febe2dcc7f3_img.jpg\) IX-N-10.46\(b\) Resident LOA Checklist – AL/IL \(BC\)](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
	Kelly Seow: Manager, Resident Experience & Service Excellence	05/2025
	Tamara Ross	05/2025
	Metzie Lacroxi	05/2025

Applicability

Algoma Manor, Arnprior - The Grove, Bruce County, Camilla, Chester Village, Enterprise, Golden Dawn, Golden Plough Lodge, Grey County, Lanark Lodge, Leamington Mennonite Home, Long Term Care (BC), Long Term Care (ON), Maple View Lodge, Stirling Manor

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