

## **VISITOR COVID-19 PROTOCOLS (ONTARIO LTC)**

The presence of family and friends is important to the emotional wellbeing of residents, and we recognize the importance of in-person visits. The health and safety of residents, families, team members, and visitors remains our top priority. The following protocols will support safe, equitable access, flexibility, equality, and opportunities for residents to have visitors to promote their overall wellbeing.

**What you need to know:** the chart below clarifies visitor definitions and highlights some key requirements in addition to protocols that are in place.

**Note:** Communities in outbreak or located in areas of higher community spread of infections may be subject to additional visitor restrictions and per Public Health Unit direction.

Vaccination remains the best defence against COVID-19, and combined with other measures and actions, high vaccination rates can help prevent and limit the spread of this virus in long-term care communities. All individuals entering our communities are strongly encouraged to stay up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses and obtain their COVID-19 booster doses when eligible. See the Government of Canada Vaccines for COVID-19 website: [Vaccines for COVID-19 - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/covid-19/vaccines.html).

A mask throughout this documents refers to a medical/surgical mask. A mask is not required during the visit unless a point of care risk assessment determines that a mask is required or the resident is on additional precautions. Additional PPE may also be required as directed by the community's Infection Prevention & Control Lead and Public Health.

**Non-compliance with the community's visiting policy and guidelines could result in discontinuation of visits for the non-compliant visitor. Where the community has previously ended a visit, or temporarily prohibited a visitor, additional education/training must be provided to the visitor before visitation can be resumed. If a caregiver is temporarily prohibited, the resident/substitute decision maker may designate an alternative individual as the caregiver to help meet resident care needs.**

### **Visitor Requirements**

Visitor Sign-In and Passive Screening requirements to be followed:

- Read the passive screening questions on visitor signage found upon the entry doors of the community and do not enter the community if you are experiencing any respiratory symptoms or feeling unwell.
- Sign in using the Kiosk/Visitor Sign-In Sheet
- In non-outbreak conditions: conduct passive screening
- In outbreak conditions: additional surveillance testing and screening requirements may be required
- Can participate in recreation activities, both indoor and outdoor, unless otherwise directed by Public Health.
- Must adhere to personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements in place at the community.
- Mask are not required for indoor or outdoor visits, but are encouraged.

## Visitor Types and Requirements

Visitor Type	Category	Definition	Requirements
<b>Essential Visitors</b>	<b>Caregiver</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated in writing by the resident/substitute decision maker</li> <li>Can be a friend/family member or person of importance</li> <li>Provide one or more forms of support or assistance to meet resident care needs including providing direct physical support e.g. activities of daily living, social, spiritual or emotional support, whether the individual is paid or unpaid</li> <li>Must be 16 years of age or older</li> <li>The approval of a parent or legal guardian is required to permit individuals under the age of 16 years to be designated as a caregiver</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sign in upon entry to the community</li> <li>Conduct passive screening for infections including COVID-19</li> <li>No limit to the number of visitors when the community is not in outbreak</li> <li>Additional IPAC training &amp; education required prior to visit</li> <li>Should not visit any other long-term care home for 10 days after visiting a resident who is self-isolating including those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and are being assessed and if a home or area of a home is affected by an outbreak</li> <li>Caregiver designated can be changed based on resident care needs</li> <li>Additional PPE required based on isolation precautions and point of care risk assessment (non-outbreak)</li> </ul>
	<b>Support Workers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support to the critical operations of the community or to provide essential services to residents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct passive screening for infections including COVID-19</li> <li>Scheduling not required</li> <li>Location of visit can be designated by site</li> <li>No limit on the number of visitors</li> </ul>
	<b>Compassionate Reasons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A person visiting the very ill for compassionate reasons including but not limited to hospice services or end of life care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergo passive screening</li> <li>No restrictions on number of visitors</li> </ul>
	<b>Government Inspector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With a statutory right to enter a long-term care home to carry out their duties</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Visitors</b>	<b>General visitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides non-essential services or visits for social reasons.</li> <li>Individuals providing personal care/ services such as hairdressing, barbers, manicurist, entertainers, recreational handlers as part of animal program, people entering for tours.</li> <li>Infants under the age of 2 are not considered visitors and are excluded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct passive screening for infections including COVID-19</li> <li>General visitors under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by an adult and must follow all applicable public health measures that are in place at the community</li> <li>No limit on number of visitors indoors and outdoors; however, number of visitors permitted will be</li> </ul>

Visitor Type	Category	Definition	Requirements
		from testing and masking requirements	<p>based on available space at the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not permitted to visit during a community wide outbreak</li> <li>• Only permitted if resident home area / neighbourhood is not part of the outbreak and resident is not currently symptomatic/on isolation</li> </ul>

#### Additional Visitor Information

- All individuals 2 years of age and older will align with additional PPE requirements based on point of care risk assessment and as required by IPAC Lead/Public Health when visiting.
- The resident/Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) will determine who may visit. Resident/SDM will communicate individuals who are designated caregivers to the Director of Programs/Designate.
- Designated Caregivers who want to volunteer to support more than one resident during outbreak (caring for COVID-19 positive residents) and non-outbreak situations provided the community obtains consent from all involved residents (or their substitute decision makers).
- Education on the community's infection prevention and control measures, including hand hygiene and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) will be available in varied training formats i.e. posters, videos, training sessions when the resident is on additional precautions, during an outbreak, and at any other times set out by the community.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will accessible and provided during the visits as required. Additional PPE may be required by designated caregivers based on point of care risk assessment.
- Animals may accompany visitors during a visit upon approval by the community Executive Director/designate (note, service dogs will always be permitted and do not require approval).

#### Visitors, please review the following education and training resources.

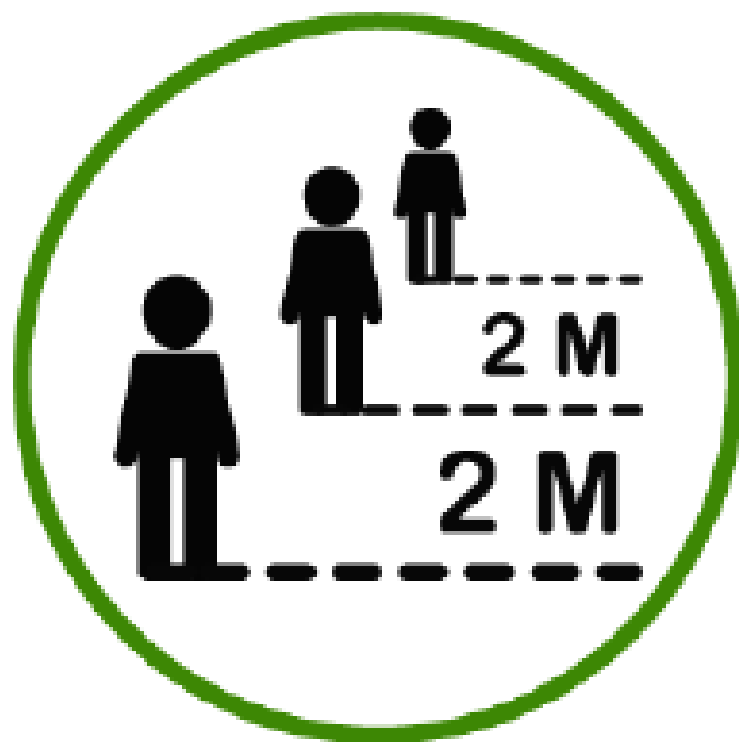
- Recommended Steps: Putting on Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps>
- Video link: Putting on Full Personal Protective Equipment  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-on>
- Video link: Taking off Full Personal Protective Equipment  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-off>
- Video link: How to Wash Your Hands  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handwash>

#### Additional References:

[COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario | ontario.ca](#)

## Training Posters

### Physical Distancing:



Maintain physical distancing between all others, including other residents, team members, and other visitors.

**Donning and Doffing PPE:**

- Place mask over nose and under chin
- Secure ties, loops or straps
- Mould metal piece to your nose bridge
- For respirators, perform a seal-check



**Hand Hygiene:**

To clean hands properly, rub all parts of the hands and wrists with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. Pay special attention to fingertips, between fingers, backs of hands and base of the thumbs.

