



NOTICE TO ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS

Dec 21, 2021

ADDITIONAL INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES IN EFFECT

In accordance with a [new directive](#) issued by Ontario's Ministry of Health on Monday, December 20th, the following COVID-19 protocols will be put in place effective Wednesday, December 22.

VISITING

Only two individuals may be present at a time during an indoor visit. Only double-vaccinated individuals can visit, and must have received their second vaccination at least 14 days ago. Pets are not permitted until further notice.

NEW PPE REQUIREMENTS

N95 Masks. When providing direct care to residents with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, to a new admission awaiting final PRC test results, or to a re-admitted resident following a medical absence, staff are required to wear an N95 mask. At this time, the Ministry does not require essential caregivers to wear N95 masks. Should this change, you will be immediately notified.

Face shields. Face shields will be required for all staff and visitors until further notice. All visitors will be given a face shield at screening and will be required to wear the face shield for the duration of their visit. No food or drink can be consumed during the visit.

Universal masking. (No change, simply a reminder.) All staff and essential visitors must wear a medical mask for the entire duration of their shift/visit, both indoors and outdoors, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status. The mask must cover from the nose to under the chin. General visitors must wear a medical mask for the duration of their visit if the visit is indoors or a medical or non-medical mask during their visit if the visit is outdoors. These requirements also apply regardless of whether the home is in an outbreak or not.

ABSENCES

Day absences. Residents who are fully vaccinated may continue to leave the home for day absences and will be reminded of public health safety measures to follow when they are outside of the home.

Overnight absences. Overnight absences for social purposes are being suspended, regardless of vaccination status. Residents who wish to leave the home overnight for social purposes will need to follow the appropriate discharge process, as required in section 147.1 of O.Reg.79/10

(General) under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 as well as the re-admission protocol when they return at a later date.

DINING

Essential caregivers are not permitted to accompany residents to the dining room until further notice.

REMINDERS

It is imperative to infection control that hand hygiene and social distancing protocols be followed. The Omicron virus is the most transmissible COVID-19 variant seen to date and it will require a strong effort on the part of everyone entering our facilities to prevent outbreak. Let's continue to work together to prevent spread.