



UPDATE ON VISITING ST. JOSEPH'S LIFECARE

On July 15, 2020, the Ministry of Long-Term Care announced two important changes to family visiting in LTC homes. As a result, St. Joseph's Lifecare will be making changes to family visiting to align with these new guidelines.

The first part of the announcement focused on outdoor visits and had two significant changes applicable to visiting residents outdoors:

Effective immediately,

1. Two visitors will be permitted to participate in the outdoor visit with a resident. These visitors will not be required to be from the same household.
2. Outdoor visitors will no longer be required to attest to having a COVID-19 negative test result.

The second part of the announcement was that LTC homes could begin indoor family visiting in one week. The Ministry has also provided direction on requirements that must be met to have families visit within the facility, such as developing a procedure for the resumption of indoor visits, and providing training on and maintaining the standards for infection prevention and control.

Upon commencement of indoor visiting in one week:

1. Visitors coming into LTC homes must attest to having a COVID-19 negative test result.
2. All visitors will be required to pass active screening prior to entering the home.

While the Ministry has stated that indoor visiting may commence on July 22, we need to ensure the safety of our residents and that all resources are in place for this to begin. We are working through the specifics, including offering training on infection prevention and control, developing a schedule of indoor visits that helps ensure we have equitable visits for residents, and that we have an appropriate number of visitors to any specific area of the health centre at any given time.

During the week of July 20, we will be connecting with families to identify if they would prefer to have an indoor, outdoor, window, or virtual visit so that we can set up a consistent visiting schedule.

Once again, we want to thank families and loved ones of residents at St. Joseph's Lifecare for your continued support and patience as we navigate changing requirements and guidelines.

Dated Saturday, July 18, 2020