

TEMPORARY POLICY – Current as July 7, 2023

Failure to follow policy and protocols will result in discontinuation of visits.

Absences

Long-term care residents may leave the Long-Term Care Home property for absences, as per the guidelines outlined in the Procedure section.

If a resident is under isolation precautions and must attend an appointment or be transferred to hospital, Radiant Care will notify the healthcare facility of the additional precautions put in place to encourage continuity of care.

DEFINITIONS

Essential Visitors: A person performing essential support services (food delivery, health care services) or a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident. During an outbreak and/or a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, the local Public Health unit will provide direction on visitors to the home depending on the specific situation.

Support Worker: A person who visits a home to provide support to the critical operations of the home or to provide essential services to a resident. Essential services include, but are not limited to, services provided by regulated health professionals, emergency services, social work, moving services, legal services, post-mortem services, maintenance and repair services, food and nutrition services, water and drink delivery services, mail, delivery and courier services, assistive devices program vendors, and election / voting services.

Caregiver: A type of visitor who is visiting the home to provide direct care to meet the essential needs of a particular resident. Caregivers must be at least 18 years of age and must be designated by the resident or his/her substitute decisionmaker (if any). Direct care includes providing support or assistance to a resident that includes providing direct physical support (for example, eating, bathing, and dressing) and/or providing social and emotional support.

General Visitors: A person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting the home to provide non-essential services related to either the operations of the home or a particular resident or group of residents. This excludes children under the age of one.

Education for All Visitors:

- *Recommended Steps: Putting on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)* – this infographic also outlines how to put on PPE <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps.pdf?la=en>
- Video: *Putting on Full Personal Protective Equipment* <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-on>
- Video: *Taking off Full Personal Protective Equipment* <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-off> Infographic:
- Video: *How to Hand Wash* <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handwash>
- Video: *How to Hand Rub* <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handrub>

PROCEDURE

The tables below indicate the visitation and resident absence guidelines based on current Ontario government directives/plans and during outbreak in the home. (The guidelines for visiting during a suspected outbreak are the same as those for outbreak.) These guidelines may be updated at the discretion of Radiant Care and as directed by the Ontario government, Ministry of Long-Term Care, Ministry of Health, and Public Health as the pandemic situation evolves to keep all residents, tenants, staff, and visitors safe.

Immunization Requirements

Long-Term Care Visitors

- All visitors are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.
 - Although vaccinations are no longer required for visitors, they remain highly recommended by Public Health Officials to reduce the severity of COVID-19 infections.

Immunization Guidelines

A person is considered up to date with their COVID-19 immunizations if they have received:

- the **Primary Series**: one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada, and
- the **Booster dose**: Public Health recommends getting a booster dose **every 6 months** from your last dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Asymptomatic Screen Testing: Families and visitors will no longer be required to complete Asymptomatic Screening, (Rapid Antigen Test) tests prior to visitation. They will still have to complete a self-assessment prior to visiting, to ensure the continued health and well-being of residents, families, and staff.

Active Screening: Visitors are required to complete this screening before visiting residents, completed via the Active Screening Kiosk located at the front entrance.

Designating an Essential Caregiver

- Each resident or substitute decision maker (SDM) may designate essential caregivers.
- Radiant Care will document the identified designated individual(s) in the resident's plan of care, along with the role they play in providing care.
- The resident or their SDM may change a designation based on resident care needs or the availability of the designated caregiver but must submit a change request in writing to the home.
- Changes to designated caregivers may be restricted during certain periods based on provincial and local conditions, and at the discretion of Radiant Care.

Mask Requirements for General Visitors/Caregivers

- It is recommended, but no longer required, that general visitors and caregivers wear a mask in within Radiant Care facilities. General visitors/Caregivers are required to comply with any masking/PPE requirements as appropriate during outbreaks or if the resident is on Additional Precautions.

General Visitors who test positive for COVID-19

General visitors who test positive for COVID-19 and/or have symptoms compatible with COVID-19 should avoid non-essential visits to anyone who is immunocompromised or at higher risk of illness (e.g., senior) as well as highest risk settings such as hospitals and long-term care homes for 10 days following symptom onset and/or positive test date (whichever is earlier/applicable).

Visitor who is essential to the residents' overall health and well-being (e.g., a caregiver) in collaboration with the local Public Health Nurse and Radiant Cares' IPAC team (IPAC Lead, Director of Care and Director of Clinical Services), is able to visit within the 10-day timeframe if asymptomatic or symptoms have resolved, but must follow measures to reduce the risk of transmission for 10 days from their symptom onset/positive test, (including wearing a mask).

Visitations During Suspected or Confirmed Outbreak

Radiant Care will follow the direction from the Niagara Public Health unit during an outbreak, which may include advising general visitors to postpone all non-essential visits, per the COVID 19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and other Congregate Living Settings for Public Health Units. If only a portion of the home is in outbreak, residents unaffected by that outbreak may still have visitors.

- Essential visitors are permitted when there is an outbreak in a home or area of a home or when a resident is symptomatic or in isolation. Essential visitors include caregivers, support workers and people visiting very ill residents or residents receiving end of life care, and government inspectors with a statutory right of entry. For clarity, individuals such as maintenance workers, contractors, or engineers, who provide support to the critical operations of the home, including performing critical maintenance services necessary to comply with applicable laws, are considered support workers and permitted to enter a home during an outbreak.

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LONG-TERM CARE VISITS

	REQUIREMENTS	OUTBREAK/ RESIDENT IN ISOLATION
<p>VISITORS <i>Masks are recommended but not required, in all areas of the home.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to each visit, self screening at the kiosk for symptoms and exposures to COVID-19 is required. If the visitor does not pass screening, they will not be permitted into the homes.</i></p> <p><i>Must review IPAC information (Appendix A), complete required education (see page 2), and follow all IPAC measures (hand hygiene, masking, and distancing where indicated)</i></p>	<p>ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER (DESIGNATED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits will not be scheduled or restricted in length or frequency • Close contact with resident allowed • May support in dining room if resident requires support for feed (space permitting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to capacity limits, it is not feasible for visitors to share a meal with a resident in the dining room. ○ Family dining room at Tabor Manor is open for use by residents and families for special occasions. ○ Visitors may share a meal with their loved ones in the residents’ room, the Café at Tabor Manor and the Sunroom at Pleasant Manor (as space permits) • Visitors join in activities (space permitting) • No restrictions for End-Of-Life support visits 	<p>Must wear a mask and PPE based on requirements set out by Public Health</p> <p>May support in residents’ room/isolation room (number of visitors will be at the discretion of Public Health)</p> <p>If resident is unaffected by outbreak, may support outside of residents’ room.</p>
	<p>GENERAL VISITOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. • Visits will not be scheduled or restricted in length or frequency. • Close contact with resident allowed. • Approved performers may remove their mask while providing live entertainment, if required to perform their talent (i.e., singing or playing a musical instrument), provided that the performer maintains a distance of at least two metres from residents. • No restrictions for End-Of-Life support visits 	<p>At the discretion of Radiant Care, the outbreak management team and local Public Health Unit, visitations may be restricted during this time.</p> <p>Must wear a mask and PPE based on requirements set out by Public Health</p>

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LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENT ACTIVITIES

REQUIREMENTS		ALL RESIDENTS	OUTBREAK/ ISOLATION
SOCIAL GATHERINGS	ORGANIZED EVENTS/ SOCIAL GATHERINGS	<p>Long Term Care homes can hold activities as set out by the guidance from Public Health Units, that will be structured based on staff capacity and the individual LTC home and resident population.</p> <p>No cohorting required.</p> <p>Enhanced precautions are recommended accordingly to capacity</p>	<p>Individual/ door-to-door programming only for area(s) in outbreak and isolated residents (caregiver permitted)</p> <p>Residents from different cohorts are not to be mixed</p>
DINING	COMMUNAL DINING	<p>Space permitting, caregivers and visitors can now share a beverage in communal areas.</p> <p>Sharing of a meal in the dining room is not permitted due to capacity limits. Visitors are encouraged to schedule a time slot for use of the Family Dining room at Tabor Manor and Sunroom at Pleasant Manor for special events.</p> <p>Visitors may also share a meal within the residents' room.</p>	<p>In-room dining</p> <p>In outbreak situations, or if a resident is on Additional Precautions, all individuals are required to comply with masking and other personal protective equipment requirements as directed by the outbreak management team and the local public health unit.</p>

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Failure to comply with IPAC or PPE protocols

Radiant Care Long-Term Care homes are required to follow directives issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and requirements under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007, and other applicable laws to ensure that the home is a safe and secure environment for its residents. As a result, Radiant Care will take steps to enforce the rules for visitors, including restricting access to the property as appropriate.

- Visitors who repeatedly do not comply with the visitor rules could have all visits discontinued. The process will be as follows:
 1. Verbal reminders
 2. Written reminder
 3. Suspension of visits until review of education to that effect has occurred

CROSS REFERENCE

REFERENCE

- COVID-19 Guidance for Public Health Units: Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Other Congregate Living Settings, Version 11 - June 26, 2023
- Ministry of Long-Term Care COVID-19 Response Measures, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) June, 2023

Revised:

July 21, 2020
August 12, 2020
September 1, 2020
September 8, 2020
November 16, 2020
November 26, 2020
December 21, 2020
February 9, 2021
February 18, 2021
March 1, 2021
April 5, 2021
April 13, 2021
May 11, 2021
May 25, 2021
June 7, 2021
June 30, 2021
July 7, 2021
July 16, 2021
August 2, 2021
September 1, 2021
September 13, 2021
October 15, 2021
December 17, 2021
December 19, 2021
December 21, 2021
December 30, 2021

January 6, 2022
January 31, 2022
February 7, 2022
February 17, 2022
February 21, 2022
March 3, 2022
March 14, 2022
October 14, 2022
November 28, 2022
April 21, 2023
June 09, 2023
July 7, 2023