



## 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>

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### 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.

See Appendix A for more information

### **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.

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### **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.

APPENDIX A

**Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Information Package**

<b>Nonadherence policy</b>	Indoor visitors and staff must review the information in this package and agree to all measures contained herein. Failure to do so, or non-adherence to home policies and procedures, will result in discontinuation of visits, effective immediately.
<b>Screening for COVID-19 Symptoms</b>	Before your visit and shift you will be 'screened' using a questionnaire (outdoor tenant visitors excluded) **If you have any of the symptoms in the following list we ask that you do NOT come for your visit or shift. If you do not pass the screening, you will not be permitted to visit at this time.
Common signs of infection include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever and /or</li> <li>• New cough or a cough that is getting worse</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Decrease or loss of taste or smell</li> <li>• Fatigue, lack of energy, muscle pain</li> </ul>
Other symptoms can include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• A runny or congested nose (not allergies)</li> <li>• Chills</li> </ul>
Other non-specific symptoms are:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle aches</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Conjunctivitis</li> <li>• Rash</li> <li>• Severe chest pain</li> <li>• Feeling confused</li> <li>• Lost consciousness</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Unexplained abnormally rapid heart rate</li> <li>• Chronic conditions getting worse</li> <li>• Unusual fatigue or malaise</li> </ul>
<b>When Experiencing Symptoms</b>	**All visitors in Long-Term care are highly recommended to wear a mask during visitations, especially during times of outbreak.

APPENDIX A

	<p>Staff are required to wear face masks in all care areas of the Long-Term Care home.</p> <p>How to safely wear a face covering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean your hands before putting it on and taking it off. Clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer for at least 20 seconds.</li> <li>2. Make sure it fits. No gaps between the face covering and your face. It should cover your mouth and nose from below the eyes to around the chin.</li> <li>3. Secure it with ties or ear loops so that it is comfortable and does not hinder breathing and vision</li> <li>4. Keep your hands away from your face while wearing a face covering. If you do touch your face or mask, clean your hands immediately.</li> <li>5. Do not share your mask with others. Wear it as long as it is comfortable, and remove it when it becomes soiled, damp, damage or difficult to breathe through.</li> </ol> <p>How to remove and care for a face covering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove carefully by grasping the straps only and place directly in the laundry (or garbage if disposable)</li> <li>2. If you must use it again before washing, ensure that the front of the mask folds in on itself to avoid touching the front. Store it in its own bag or container. Discard the bag or clean and disinfect the container after use.</li> <li>3. Immediately clean your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer</li> <li>4. Machine wash with hot water and regular detergent</li> </ol> <p>Type of Face Covering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor Long-Term Care general visitors are requested to bring their own face covering/mask</li> <li>• Indoor Long-Term Care general visitors and all essential caregivers must wear a medical mask provided by Radiant Care</li> </ul> <p>Please view online video listed in Education section above.</p>
<p><b>Face Masks</b></p>	<p>**All visitors in Long-Term care are highly recommended to wear a mask during visitations, especially during times of outbreak.</p>

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<p><b>Education for Long-Term Care Visitors and Staff</b></p>	<p>Prior to any visit and in Long-Term Care, visitors must complete education that includes how to perform hand hygiene and put on and remove required PPE. (See specific requirements below) Staff are required to complete their Monthly and Annual IPAC training and re-training via Systems 24/7</p> <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infographic: Recommended Steps: Taking Off Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – this infographic also outlines how to put on PPE <a href="https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps.pdf?la=en">https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps.pdf?la=en</a></li> <li>• Video: Putting on Full Personal Protective Equipment <a href="https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-on">https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-on</a></li> <li>• Video: Taking off Full Personal Protective Equipment <a href="https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-off">https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-off</a></li> <li>• Video: How to Hand Wash <a href="https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handwash">https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handwash</a></li> <li>• Video: How to Hand Rub <a href="https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handrub">https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handrub</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Clean Your Hands:</b> Cleaning your hands is the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs. Regular hand cleaning with either soap and water or an <b>alcohol-based hand sanitizer</b> will reduce the risk of getting sick</p>	<p>You must clean your hands: You will be asked to sanitize your hands at the beginning of your visit and shift, throughout your shift, visit and again as you are leaving the long-term care homes.</p> <p>Hand Sanitizer will be available for you to use when you are screened prior to your visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply the sanitizer to the palm of your hand, rub the product over all surfaces of your hands (between your fingers, the base of your thumb, your wrists, under your fingernails) until your hands are dry. This should take 20 seconds</li> </ul> <p>Please view online video listed in Education section above.</p>
<p><b>Eye Protection</b></p>	<p>Eye protection is strongly recommended in resident rooms under additional precautions. Staff are required to comply with PPE requirements via PCRA and additional precautions as per policies.</p>