



LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION POLICY MANUAL

Manual 1 - Long Term Care	Policy: 1-8-15-2
Visitors to the Home during COVID-19	
Effective Date: June 16, 2020	
Approved by: July 6, 2021 by Strategic Leadership team	

OBJECTIVE

To provide opportunities for visitors to attend the Home while ensuring the safety of elders and staff during a pandemic. The Home will adhere to all current directives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care and Public Health Ontario as well as all other applicable guidelines. This visiting policy is guided by our Mission, Vision, and Values as well as the safety, emotional well-being, equitable access, flexibility and equality of those who live in the Home.

PROCEDURE

This COVID-19 Visiting Policy (policy) is provided to support Lambton County Homes in implementing the requirements set out in the Ministry Directive #3, Ministry of Long-term Care and the Ontario Provincial guidelines in order to safely receive visitors while protecting residents, staff and visitors from the risk of COVID-19.

Types of Visitors

Not Considered Visitors

LTC home staff, volunteers, and placement students are not considered visitors as their access to the home is determined by the Home.

Essential Visitors

Essential visitors are defined as including a person performing essential support services (e.g., food delivery, inspector, maintenance, or health care services or a person visiting a very ill or elder at end of life.

- a) **Support worker** is a type of essential visitor who is visiting to perform essential support services for the home or for an elder at the Home. (ex. Physician, nurse practitioners, service providers).
- b) **Caregiver** is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the elder and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the elder (e.g., supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision-making).
- Caregivers must be at least 18 years of age.
 - Changes to the designated caregiver will be approved as per Directive #3.

General Visitors

A general visitor is a person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting to provide non-essential services, who may or may not be hired by the home or the elder and/or their substitute decision maker; and/or, be another family member or friend to the resident.

Access to the Home

Access to the Home is determined by the guidelines set out in the Ministry Directive #3 and Provincial Testing Requirements.

All visitors are required to adhere to the guidelines for IPAC education, screening, PPE requirements as set out in Ministry Directive #3. (see Addendum for current requirements).

The Home will provide education to caregivers of any elder for the first time and at a frequency in line with the Ministry Directive.

Exemptions

Support Workers, Caregivers and general visitors do not need to be tested in an emergency or end of life situation subject to restrictions or requirements of Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

All individuals that previously tested positive for COVID-19 will be tested as per the direction from Public Health Ontario.

PPE

Visitors must wear the necessary PPE as required at the time of the visit as per the Ministry Directive #3 and Public Health Ontario.

Non-adherence by visitors

Non-compliance with the home's policies may result in a discontinuation of visits for the visitor not adhering to policy.

Homes have the discretion to end a visit or temporarily prohibit a visitor in response to repeatedly failing to adhere to the Home's visitor policy.

Where the Home has temporarily prohibited a caregiver, the elder and/or their substitute decision-maker may need to designate an alternate individual as caregiver to help meet the elder's care needs.

Addendum: 1-8-15-2-1 Visiting Information Chart

Addendum: 1-8-15-2-2 Caregiver Form