



SECTION COVID-19	SUBJECT <u>VISITOR POLICY</u>	Policy # A09-RC-022-12
		Page 1 of 3
		October 2024
APPROVED BY Homes Director	PAST REVISIONS May 2023 June 2023 November 2023, March 2024	

POLICY:

The Homes are committed to ensuring the protection for the health and safety of our residents and staff with the implementation and on-going management of visitation.

The Homes manage all visitations in accordance with an evidence-based approach, best practices and reflective of the homes regional COVID-19 prevalence in consideration of local risks and will be re-evaluated accordingly.

Visitation changes are implemented in accordance with provincial direction; in collaboration with the Huron Perth Public Health Unit and the objectives identified below.

To ensure a safe and secure environment, the Homes exercise their discretion to further restrict the number of visitors.

OBJECTIVES:

The ongoing management of visitation will ensure the following principles:

1. **Safety:** Any approach to visiting in long term care home must consider balance and meet the health and safety needs of resident, staff, visitors ensuring risks are mitigated.
2. **Emotional Well Being:** Visitors support the emotional well-being of residents and their families/friends, through reducing any potential negative impacts related to social isolation.
3. **Equitable Access:** All individuals seeking visitation are being given equitable visitation access, consistent with resident preferences and within reasonable restrictions that safeguard residents.
4. **Flexibility:** The physical/infrastructure characteristics of the long-term care home, staffing levels/availability, outbreak status (in the Home’s community) and status of personal protective equipment supplies.
5. **Equality:** Residents of the long-term care homes have the right to choose their visitors. Additionally, residents and/or substitute decision-makers have the right to designate caregivers.

NOTE: Visitors should consider their personal health and determine whether a visit is appropriate.

DEFINITIONS:

There are four types of **Essential visitors**:

1. **Caregiver**- an individual who:
 - A) Is a family member or friend of a resident or a person of importance to a resident.
 - B) Is at least sixteen years of age.
 - C) Provides one or more forms of support or assistance to meet the needs of the resident, including providing direct physical support, such as activities of daily living or providing social or emotional support, whether on a paid or unpaid basis.
 - D) Is designated in writing by the resident or the residents substitute decision-maker with authority to give that designation, if any.
2. **Support Worker**- an individual who visits a home to provide support to the critical operations of the home or to provide essential services to residents.
3. An individual visiting a very ill resident for compassionate reasons including, but not limited to, hospice service or end of life care.
4. **Government Inspector** - with a statutory right to enter a long-term care home to carry out their duties.

General Visitor- a person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting to provide non-essential services related to either the operations of the home or a particular resident or group of residents and include those persons visiting for social reasons as well as visitors providing non-essential services such as personal care services, entertainment, or individuals touring the Home.

Essential Visitors Home Access:

Effective March 4th, 2024: To gain entry to the Home, all volunteers, support workers and caregivers are to pass a passive screen test. Medical masks at times will be mandated at the Homes discretion.

Additional Requirements:

- Visitor log is to be filled out with the date, time, and full name of the visitor.
- Caregivers may support more than one resident in non-outbreak situations, provided the Homes obtains consent from all involved residents (or Substitute Decision Maker).

Recommended Practices:

- Maintain physical/social distancing, allowing for a two-metre distance between themselves and other LTC residents and staff with the following exceptions:
 - A. Subject to the homes operational capacity, caregivers who are in the home per the Homes' visitor policy and who have passed passive screening may accompany in communal dining and indoor activities, where allowed as per current Ministry Directives, unless otherwise directed by the local Public Health Unit or the Home.
 - B. For compassionate or end of life visits.

SUBJECT: VISITOR POLICY	POLICY#: A09-RC-022-12	Page 3 of 3
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- C. While providing personal care services (e.g., haircutting).
- D. Appropriate IPAC control measures, like masking and hand hygiene.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

Guidance Document for Long Term Care 2024.03.04

Ministers Directive-COVID 19 Response Measures 2022.04.27

Pandemic Response Merged FAQs 2022.04.25

CMOH Memo-Continuation of Masking in Certain Settings 2022.04.22 AODA

Section 22-77.1 Class Order Continuation of Masking after April 27, 2022

MOHLTC Guidance document for Long Term Care Homes in Ontario March 31, 2023