

June 11th, 2020

Resuming Resident Visits

All visits will be scheduled in advance. Spontaneous visits will not be available. A member of our Cassellholme staff will be contacting residents POA on Monday June 15th, 2020 and Tuesday June 16th, 2020 to establish a weekly visiting time. Visitors must have tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous 2 weeks. Visits will begin on Thursday June 18th, 2020.

VISIT INSTRUCTIONS:

- ✓ Visitors must be tested for COVID-19 [North Bay Regional Health Centre]
- ✓ Visits will be scheduled Monday to Friday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- ✓ Active screening with visitors will take place between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. the evening before the scheduled visit, via phone. [Please ensure that you are available for screening]
- ✓ During the phone screening the visitor will attest to the home that the visitor has tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous two weeks and subsequently not tested positive.
- ✓ Visits will take place outside in the Oval Garden. Access to the Garden will be made via the outdoor gate. Please do not access the front entrance to Cassellholme. A barrier will assist with social distancing and create visitor and resident zones. This barrier will ensure the safety of visitors and residents.
- ✓ Residents will be restricted to one visitor at a time during Phase One.
- ✓ Visitors will be required to wear face protection for the duration of the visit.
- ✓ Weather/sun protection tents will be set up in the Garden.
- ✓ Hand sanitizing stations will be set up in the visitor zone.
- ✓ Any non-adherence to these rules will be the basis for discontinuation of visits.

INTRODUCTION

On March 13th, 2020, guidance was given on restricting visits to homes to essential visitors, to reduce the probability of disease spread into Long-Term Care homes. This was subsequently upgraded to a directive from the Chief Medical Officer of Health [CMOH] [Directive 3].

Although this policy was tough on residents and loved ones, it was necessary to protect residents and staff during the pandemic. The role that families, visitors and loved ones play in providing caregiving and emotional supports is important in the quality of life for Long-Term Care residents. To support Long-Term Care residents, the ministry is proposing a gradual, staged resumption of visits guided by the following principles:

- ✓ **Safety:** Any approach to visiting in Long-Term Care homes must consider balance and meet the health and safety needs of residents, staff and visitors, and ensure risks are mitigated.
- ✓ **Emotional Well-Being:** Allowing visitors is intended to support the emotional well-being of residents and their families/friends, through reducing any potential negative impacts related to social isolation.
- ✓ **Equitable Access:** All individuals seeking to visit a resident will be given equitable visitation access, consistent with resident preference and within reasonable restrictions that safeguard the residents.
- ✓ **Flexibility:** The physical/infrastructure characteristics of the Long-Term Care home, its staffing availability, and the current status of the home with respect to Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] levels for staff and residents.

Visitors should consider their personal health and susceptibility to the virus in determining whether visiting a Long-Term Care home is appropriate. Where it is not possible or advisable for in-person visits, homes should continue to provide virtual visiting options.

As the pandemic situation evolves in Ontario, this direction regarding visits at Long-Term Care homes will be adjusted as necessary, keeping the safety and emotional well-being of residents and staff at the forefront.

HOME REQUIREMENTS

The following baseline requirements for the home must be met prior to the home being able to accept any visitors:

The Long-Term Care home must NOT be currently in outbreak [has never been in outbreak or the outbreak has been declared resolved by the Public Health Unit [PHU]].

In the event that a home has relaxed visitor restrictions and enters into an outbreak, all non-essential visitations must end. Homes must establish compliance with all CMOH directives for homes in outbreak and follow directions from the local PHU.

VISITOR REQUIREMENTS

Prior to each visit, the visitor must:

- A. Pass an active screening questionnaire administered by home staff
- B. Attest to home staff that the visitor has tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous two weeks and subsequently not tested positive. The home is not responsible for providing the testing.
- C. Comply with Long-Term Care home infection, prevention and control [IPAC] protocols, including proper use of face or surgical/procedure masks.
 - i. Visitors should use a face covering if the visit is outdoors. If the visit is indoors, a surgical/procedure mask must be worn at all times.
 - ii. Visitors are responsible for bringing their own face covering for outside visits.
 - iii. Any non-adherence to these rules will be the basis for discontinuation of visits.

TIMELINE

Phase One: Outdoor Visiting Only

Type of Visit: Outdoor Visiting Only

Homes will create a dedicated area outside the building, where visitors can meet with loved ones. Staff will support the transfer of residents out of and into the home.

Number of Visitors Allowed: One visitor at a time per resident

Scheduling of Visits Required: [705-474-4250 ext. 300] Yes. This will allow for appropriate physical distancing and staffing coverage. Visits can be time-limited to allow the home to accommodate more families/visitors.

Homes should establish scheduling practices that:

1. Provide meaningful and equitable access to visits for all residents; and,
2. Consider the staffing and space capacity available to the home to maintain safety of residents, staff and visitors.

Homes may consider the needs of residents in prioritizing visits, for example: due to relative clinical or emotional decline.

A sufficient block of time should be made available by homes to allow for, at minimum, one visit per week per resident.