

Royal Terrace

Long Term and Residential Care

VISITING POLICY **Updated: October 18, 2022**

The Benefits of Vaccination

There continues to be an increased risk for severe outcomes as a result of COVID-19 in the elderly population due to age and underlying medical conditions, particularly in shared living spaces like long-term care homes. Vaccination remains the best defense against COVID-19. Regardless of a home's specific vaccination policy, all individuals entering long-term care homes, including residents, staff, caregivers, and visitors, are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and stay up to date with all recommended COVID-19 doses. All vaccines provided as part of Ontario's vaccine rollout are safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccine booster doses help to increase protection against symptomatic infection and severe outcomes at the individual level and help to reduce transmission at the population level. Evidence shows that vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection wanes over time, with little to no protective effect six months after the second dose, and that protection from infection is restored shortly after receiving a booster dose to between 50 and 70%. Additionally, evidence shows that booster doses are highly effective against severe outcomes, including hospitalizations and death. The more people who have up to date COVID-19 vaccinations, the lower the risk of infection and the lower the chance that COVID-19 will enter homes and affect the lives of residents.

For more information on recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccine, please review the Ministry of Health's guidance document *Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended Doses*. Additional information about COVID-19 vaccination can also be found online on the COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario website.

COVID-19 SCREENING RULES

Essential Caregivers, General Visitors, Support Workers, External Care Workers, Contractors

- Active screening is required for all individuals entering the facility.
- Screener must ask each individual all screening questions.
- They must pass all screening questions. If they do not, they are denied entry.
- Everyone entering the facility (over the age of 2) will have an antigen test completed prior to entry.
- Masking is required indoors, except when visitors/ caregivers are **alone** with the resident in their room or a private space (masks continue to be highly recommended)

- **Essential Caregivers (ECGs)**
- ECG's who have 2 or more doses of the COVID vaccine must wear a surgical mask provided by the home. If the ECG is not vaccinated or only partially vaccinated, they must wear a surgical mask as well as a face shield.
- ECGs who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post exposure.
- ECGs who receive a positive rapid test or they develop symptoms at home are deemed to be **COVID Positive** and must leave the facility and cannot visit for 10 days.
- ECG's are permitted entry no matter their vaccination status. ECG's that are up to date with their vaccinations are only required to have an antigen test 2 times per 7 days (Monday-Sunday). Those that are not up to date on their vaccinations must have an antigen test each day they visit. Testing requirements will be daily during a COVID outbreak or at the discretion of Royal Terrace.

General Visitor (GVs) Entry Requirements:

- All general visitors (GVs), including children under the age of 5, can visit the home despite vaccination status.
- GV's who have received a minimum of 2 COVID vaccines +14 days must wear a surgical mask but are not required to wear a shield. GV's who are not vaccinated or only partially vaccinated must wear a surgical mask as well as a face shield. .
- Masks are required for children 5 years or older; children under 2 years of age are NOT required to wear masks and do not need to be antigen tested.
- All GV's, regardless of vaccination status, are required to be tested upon arrival for their visit and wait for their results.
- GV's who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post-exposure.
- GV's who receive a positive antigen test, or they develop symptoms at home are deemed to be **COVID Positive** and must leave the facility and cannot visit for 10 days.
- It is strongly encouraged that all GV's be up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses. At this time, being up to date would mean having received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including booster doses when eligible.

Support Worker Entry Requirements (any individual entering the facility to perform an essential support service):

- It is strongly encouraged that all support workers be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine meaning they must have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including any booster dose(s) when eligible.
- Support workers must wear a surgical mask but are not required to wear a shield.
- Support workers must at a minimum have 2 vaccines + 14 days past second vaccine **and** must show proof of vaccination.
- Support Workers who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post-exposure.

- Support Workers who receive a positive rapid test or they develop symptoms at home are deemed to be **COVID Positive** and must leave the facility and cannot visit for 10 days.

External Care Workers

- External Care Workers must wear a surgical mask but are not required to wear a shield.
- If they are providing an essential service and have been to another home in outbreak, they must wear surgical mask **and** shield.
- External Care Workers who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post-exposure.
- External Care Workers who receive a positive rapid test or they develop symptoms at home are deemed to be **COVID Positive** and must leave the facility and cannot visit for 10 days.

Contractors (include moving companies)

- Contractors will be actively screened in by the screener.
- It is recommended that all contractors be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine meaning they must have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including any booster dose(s) when eligible, **and** must show proof of having their booster.
- Those who have only **2 vaccines** are required to wear a mask and a shield.
- Contractors who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post-exposure.
- Contractors who receive a positive rapid test or they develop symptoms at home are deemed to be **COVID Positive** and must leave the facility and cannot visit for 10 days.

Resident Visits (On Property):

- There is no limit on the number of visitors each resident can have at one time. It is recommended for a larger group to reserve a common area for the gathering.
- Individuals visiting must pass all screening and testing protocols before entry.

Resident Visits (Outdoors / Off Property):

- Residents must sign out and be screened with the screener before leaving the building.
- All residents, regardless of vaccination status, can resume social day absences.
- Resident/Family/Friends should continue to limit their contact with others, including avoiding large social gatherings, following masking and physical distancing as much as possible, and only being in close contact with individuals who have had three COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- Social overnight absences can resume for residents regardless of vaccination status. Resident will require active screening upon return from an absence, but no longer require testing following the absence unless symptomatic.

- There is no limit for the number of visitors for outdoor gatherings. Mask wearing is strongly encouraged.

End of Life:

- Anyone visiting a resident who is deemed to be End of Life must be permitted entry regardless of vaccination status, and are not required to have an antigen test, unless otherwise directed to do so.

Ministry and Public Health Inspectors:

- Inspectors will be actively screened but do not need to undergo an antigen test upon entry.

Situation Specific Rules:

Positive Rapid Tests - ECGs, GVs, Volunteers, and Externals:

- If the antigen test is positive, the individual must leave the premises, and the CN and DOC must be notified.
- The individual must also be instructed to isolate and be informed that they cannot enter the home for 10 days.