

# Royal Terrace

## Long Term and Residential Care

### **VISITING POLICY** **Updated: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

#### **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**

- Passive screening is required for all individuals entering the facility.
- Each individual should self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory or infectious diseases
- If symptoms are present, the individual should abstain from visiting the home

- 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)**

- All ECGs must wear a surgical mask within the home.
- ECGs who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post exposure.
- ECGs are permitted entry no matter their vaccination status

### **General Visitor (GVs) Entry Requirements:**

- All general visitors (GVs), including children under the age of 5, can visit the home despite vaccination status.
- All GV's must wear surgical masks within the home.
- Masks are required for children 5 years or older; children under 2 years of age are NOT required to wear masks
- GV's who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post-exposure.
- 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 within the home.
- 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.

### **External Care Workers**

- External Care Workers must wear a surgical mask within the home
- External Care Workers who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post-exposure.

### **Contractors (include moving companies)**

- Contractors must complete passive screening and wear a surgical mask within the home
- 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.

- Contractors who have been deemed **high-risk contact** must be denied entry and cannot visit for 10 days post-exposure.

**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.

**Resident Visits (Outdoors / Off Property):**

- 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.
- There is no limit for the number of visitors for outdoor gatherings.

**End of Life:**

- Anyone visiting a resident who is deemed to be End of Life must be permitted entry regardless of vaccination status.

**Ministry and Public Health Inspectors:**

- Inspectors are to passively screen upon entry to the home and wear a surgical mask.