

Royal Terrace

Long Term and Residential Care

VISITING POLICY **Updated: June 27, 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/ VISITING 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 for 10 days after symptom onset or a positive test result.
- Masks are recommended, but not required, in all areas of the home.

- This means that caregivers and visitors may join in for dining and sharing a meal or beverage in communal areas.

In outbreak situations, or if a resident is on additional precautions, all individuals are required to comply with PPE requirements set out by the outbreak management team and the local Public Health Unit.

Resident Visits (Indoors/ 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.
- Social overnight absences can resume for residents regardless of vaccination status.
- There is no limit to 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.