

APPENDIX B – VISITOR POLICY GUIDELINES

The following document provides guidelines that support the Visiting Residents During COVID-19 policy (COV-01) when the Home or Home Area is **NOT in outbreak**

Last updated: **April 11, 2022**

1. What has changed?

- Our homes have implemented a proof-of vaccination requirement vaccination policy, requiring **all visitors to be fully vaccinated** (e.g., 2 doses) to visit inside the Home. Visitors staying outside will not need to show proof of vaccination or undergo antigen testing
- All **general visitors can resume visits** to our Homes
- **Up to 4 visitors** (including caregivers) can visit a resident at a time. Essential visitors like caregivers are the only type of visitors allowed when there is an outbreak in a home or area of a home or when a resident has failed screening, is symptomatic or in isolation
- Physical distancing with the resident is **not required**
- All **visitors may support in dining room and join activities**
- **Children under 5 can attend the Home and are exempt from vaccination requirements.** Children less than 1 years of age will not be tested. Children over two years will be required to wear a mask

2. Will I be screened?

Yes. Everyone who attends the home is actively screened. If you refuse to undergo screening you will not be allowed to attend the Home.

3. Will I undergo antigen testing?

Yes. Testing is required for an indoor visit only. See the table on page 3

An infant under one year is not required to undergo a test. Parental consent is required for anyone under the age of 14.

If you have had COVID-19 (for example tested positive on a PCR or Antigen-Test), you are not required to undergo testing for 90 days. You will need to show proof of your positive test result at screening.

4. Do I need to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to enter the Home?

Yes. Visitors with valid medical exemptions will also be allowed to enter the Home.

Caregivers who do not meet the **COVID-19 vaccination requirements**, but have at **least their first dose**, will be restricted to visiting the resident in their room **AND** must be physically distant from other residents/individuals in the same room.

5. How can I prove my vaccination status or medical exemption?

Proof of vaccination

- The physical or electronic receipt provided by the Ministry of Health. Copies can be obtained by logging into the provincial <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/> OR
- A vaccine certificate QR code from <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/>

Proof of active medical exemption

To obtain your medical exemption, you must:

- Ask an Ontario physician or registered nurse in the extended class to submit your exemption request directly to the public health unit where they are located
- Once your exemption is accepted and entered into COVaxON by the public health unit, you'll be able to access your enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#)

Processes may vary in different public health units. Contact your primary health provider or nurse practitioner to learn more. Visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/proof-covid-19-vaccination> for more information.

6. Are you storing my COVID-19 vaccine status in the app?

No. You will need to show photo ID and proof of vaccine at screening every time you attend the Home. If you are a **designated essential caregiver**, you may have your COVID-19 vaccination status kept in the screening app used by the Homes. If you want the app to store your vaccination status, please speak to the Home's Administrator or Social Worker.

7. What personal protective equipment (PPE) do I need to wear?

Universal Masking

You must always wear **a mask** for the duration of visit, regardless of your COVID-19 vaccination status or whether your visit is indoors or outside. You will be provided with a medical mask at screening. **Exceptions** to the masking requirements:

- children who are younger than two years of age
- Any individual who is being accommodated in accordance with the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#) or the [Ontario Human Rights Code](#)

- Any individual who has a medical condition that inhibits their ability to wear a mask or is unable to put on or remove their mask without assistance from another person

If you are unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person, contact the Administrator for more information.

Table 1: Visitor Questions and Answers

Question	Attending the home as a	
	Caregiver	General Visitor
How often will I undergo an Antigen Testing?	Up to three times a week	Every time you attend the Home
Will the app store my COVID-19 vaccine status?	No. If you want it to store your details for future visits, speak to the Home Administrator	No. You will need to show proof every time you attend the Home
Do I need to wait for the Antigen Testing results?	Yes	Yes
Are there any additional precautions the Home is taking if I travel?	Yes. You must undergo testing every time you attend the Home within 14 days of returning from travel outside Canada	No. Testing is already every time you attend the Home (regardless of vaccine status)
I'm visiting indoors . What type of mask must I wear?	Medical Mask for duration of visit	Medical Mask for duration of visit
I'm visiting outside , what type of mask must I wear?	Medical Mask for duration of visit	Medical Mask or Non-Medical Mask for duration of visit
I'm visiting a resident who has suspect/confirmed COVID-19, do I need to wear eye protection?	Yes	N/A. If a resident has suspect/confirmed COVID-19, only caregivers are permitted



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Question	Attending the home as a	
	Caregiver	General Visitor
I'm visiting a resident who is within 2 meters of an outbreak area. Do I need to wear eye protection?	Yes	Yes
Can I eat with the resident during communal dining?	No. All visitors must always remain masked regardless of vaccination status	