

Clarion Nursing Home

June 2020 July 2020	Revised: March 2021	Revised: Sept. 2021 Revised November 2021 Revised: December 2021
September 2020 Revised: October 2020	Revised: July 7 and 22 REVIEWED: JUNE 2022	Revised: February 2022 Revised: March 2022 Revised April 2022 Revised May 2022

Indoor and Outdoor Visits during Covid-19 pandemic

Purpose

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe disease such as Covid-19. A novel coronavirus is a new strain that has been previously identified in humans.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Covid-19 is classified as a pandemic.

The virus which causes Covid-19 primarily spreads from one person to another through droplet and contact modes.

To support Clarion Nursing Home residents, the Ministry of Long-Term Care is proposing a gradual, staged resumption of visits guided by the following principles:

Safety: Any approach to visiting at Clarion Nursing Home must consider, balance, and meet the health and safety needs of residents, staff, and visitors to ensure risks are mitigated.

Emotional Wellbeing: Allowing visitors is intended to support the emotional wellbeing of residents and their families/friends, through reducing and potential negative impacts related to social isolation. The Clarion Nursing Home must make every effort to maintain the visiting schedule and any cancellations should be due to extraordinary circumstances such as inclement weather during planned outdoor visits.

Equitable Access: All individuals seeking to visit a resident must be given equitable visitation access, consistent with resident preference and within reasonable restrictions that safeguard the residents.

Flexibility: The physical/infrastructure characteristics of the Clarion Nursing Home, and its current status with respect to availability of Personal Protective Equipment, staffing availability, and any other key factors must be considered.

Objective:

1. To enhance resident's quality of life
2. To protect the health and safety of the residents, staff, and visitors during Covid-19 pandemic
3. To ensure that staff, residents and visitors are aware of visitors policy

All visitors that enter Clarion Nursing Home must be vaccinated against Covid-19. All caregivers and general visitors will need a rapid test taken at each scheduled visit (one per day).

All visitors, with the exception of a compassionate visitor, must be scheduled through the activity department.

Type of Visitors:

- 1. Compassionate visitor – (Visiting palliative residents) visit must be pre-arranged and approved by Nurse in Charge working on the floor that resident is residing on.**

Compassionate visitor:

- May not need to be tested for Corvid -19 in Emergency situations, but should be advised that must undergo surveillance testing (Rapid Test) at each entry

- Must be screen negative on Screening Sheet or App.
- If Tested Positive, must wear full PPE
- Must be informed if Home is in an outbreak
- Must be informed of Home's Visiting Policy
- May visit at any time, but visits must be prearranged and approved by Registered Staff
- Must be trained by Reg. Staff at the time of the first visit regarding:
 - *Proper use of PPE
 - *Physical distancing
 - *Respiratory etiquette
 - *Hand washing
- Must wear medical mask- provided by home
- Speak directly to Registered Staff
- Do not bring pets
- Must be informed that noncompliance with the rules as per Home's Visiting policy may result in suspension of the visit

Essential Visitors:

There are 2 types of Essential Visitors:

- **Support Worker**
- **Caregiver**

2.Support Worker

A Support Worker is a type of essential visitor who is visiting to perform essential support services for the home or for a resident at the home.

Any number of Support Workers may visit at a time

Examples of support workers include physicians, nurse practitioners, maintenance workers or a person delivering food, provided they are not staff of the Home.

Support Worker:

- Must be screened and screen negative on the Screening Sheet
- Must undergo surveillance testing (Rapid test) at each entry
- Must be informed if Home is in an outbreak
- Must be trained by the screener at the time of the first visit regarding:
 - *Proper use of PPE

- *Physical distancing
- *Respiratory etiquette
- *Hand washing
- Must wear medical mask provided by the home or N95 if needed

3.Caregiver

As of February 7, 2022 a maximum of 4 caregivers may be designated per resident at a time. Caregivers who were designated prior to December 15th, 2021, may continue to be designated as a caregiver even if this means the resident has more than 4 designated caregivers.

A Caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the Resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the Resident (e.g., supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision-making. Examples of caregivers include family members who provide meaningful connection, a privately hired caregiver, paid companion, and translators).

- The designation should be made in writing to the Home. The decision to designate an individual as a caregiver is entirely the remit of the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and not the home.
- A Caregiver must be at least 18 years of age.
- Any individual under the age of 16 must receive approval from a parent or legal guardian
- A resident and/or their substitute decision-maker may change a designation in response to a change in the:
 - Resident’s care needs that are reflected in the plan of care
 - Availability of a designated caregiver, either temporary (e.g., illness) or permanent.
 - A caregiver should not visit any other home for 10 days after visiting:
 - * an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19
 - * an individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms

Caregiver:

- Must contact Activity Department to scheduled their visits
- All caregivers must have 2 vaccinations and provide proof for our records
- Must submit “Caregiver designation” form to the Activity Department and be approved prior the first visit

- Must be screened and screen negative on the Screening Sheet
- Must undergo surveillance testing (Rapid test) at each entry
- Must be informed if Home is in an outbreak
- Must be trained at the time or prior the first visit regarding:
 - *Proper use of PPE
 - *Physical distancing
 - *Respiratory etiquette
 - *Hand washing

- Must attest that they have read and understand the policy for visits
- Wear medical mask provided by the home
- Physical distancing with the resident not required
- May support in dining room, join in activities
- A vaccinated caregiver may have physical contact including for non-care related reasons with vaccinated resident
- Do not bring pets
- Will conclude the visit and exit Clarion through the front entrance
- If a resident is in isolation, or is symptomatic, or is the resident resides in a declared outbreak area, then the resident may only have **one designated caregiver**
- Must be informed that noncompliance with the rules as per Home's Visiting policy may result in suspension of the visits

4. General Visitor - indoor

Effective March 14, 2022, 4 visitors (including caregivers) may visit a resident at a time (indoor). There are no limits on the number of individuals permitted outdoors. The home may restrict the number of visitors per resident based on available space.

A General Visitor is a person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting to provide non-essential services. May or may not be hired by the Home or the resident and/or their substitute decision maker, and/or for social reasons (example family members or friends) that the resident or their substitute decision maker assesses as different from direct care, including care related to cognitive stimulation, meaningful connection and relational continuity.

In addition, general visitors may include persons attending the home for other purposes which may include but are not limited to:

- Personal care service providers (for example, hairdressers, barbers, manicurists, etc.)
- Entertainers
- Recreational service providers
- Animal handlers (for example, as part of therapy animal program)
- Individuals who are touring the home to inform decisions regarding application for admission.

All General visitors, including children under the age of 5, can visit homes

Visitors (including caregivers) with the exception of children under the age of 5 need to follow the vaccination policy of the individual long term care home.

No General Visitors are allowed when Home is in an outbreak, unless visiting a resident receiving end of life care.

General Visitor:

- Must contact Activity Department to schedule visits in advance.
- The visitor that can provide proof of vaccination
- Must be screened and tested to enter the home
- Must undergo surveillance testing (Rapid test) at each entry
- Must be informed if Home is in an outbreak
- Must be trained at the time or prior the first visit regarding:
 - *Proper use of PPE
 - *Physical distancing
 - *Respiratory etiquette
 - *Hand washing
- Wear a medical mask provided by the Home or N95 if needed
- Must attest that they have read and understand the policy for visits
- Physical distancing with the resident is not required
- May support in dining room, join in activities
- Must be informed that noncompliance with the rules as per Home's Visiting policy may result in suspension of the visits.

Outdoor Visits:

- Must contact Activity Department to schedule visits in advance- visits scheduled before 6 pm
- Actively screened
- Masks should be worn as an added layer of protection
- Maintain social distancing between groups visiting

- Number of visitors based on the home's policy
- Pets are allowed
- Must be informed that noncompliance with the rules as per Home's Visiting policy may result in suspension of the visits.

Schedules:

Copies of Caregiver, indoor and outdoor visits are posted at screening area, surveillance testing area and both nurse's stations for each day.

Visitor Logs

The visitor log must include, at minimum:

- * The name and contact information of the visitor
- * Time and date of the visit
- * The purpose of the visit (e.g., the name of resident visited)

The visitor logs or records must be kept for a period of at least 30 days and be available to the local public health unit for contact tracing purposes upon request.

Public Health Ontario Resources

Training and education to support IPAC AND PPE

* guidance document: recommended steps: putting on personal protective equipment

*video : putting on full personal protective equipment

*video: taking off full personal protective equipment

*video: how to hand wash and how to hand rub