

SECTION: 16 COVID-19	
SUBJECT: Visitor Policy	
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01 Administration	

## POLICY

Resident visitors to Valleyview Home will adhere to the current Directives from the Ministry of Long-Term Care while balancing the current requirements for safety and infection control.

Application of this policy will be dependent on current restrictions and will require fluidity and communication to staff, residents and family members as changes occur.

### SCOPE:

This policy applies to all residents of Valleyview Home.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Essential Visitor:** includes persons performing essential support services (delivery, contractors, health services (phlebotomy), MLTC, MOL Inspector, or a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident)

**Support Worker:** includes persons visiting to perform essential support services for Valleyview or for a resident in the home eg: physicians, dental services, foot care, maintenance workers or a person delivering food, provided they are not staff of the home.

**Essential Caregiver:** An individual who

- a) is a family member or friend of a resident or a person of importance to the resident
- b) is able to comply with all applicable laws including any applicable directives, orders, guidance, advice or recommendations as issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or a medical officer of health appointed under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*

- c) provides one or more forms of support or assistance to meet the needs of the resident, including providing direct physical support such as activities of daily living, or providing social, spiritual or emotional support, whether on a paid or unpaid basis
- d) is designated by the resident or the resident's substitute decision-maker with authority to give that designation, if any, and
- e) in the case of an individual under 16 years of age, there must be approval from a parent or guardian to be designated as a caregiver (*FLTCHA, 2021*)
- f) Essential Caregivers must complete the appropriate documentation at the time of admission, and when designating new and/or alternate caregivers

**General Visitor:** A person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting

### **Screening Protocols:**

1. Ensure screening is completed at the main entrance.
2. Visitor to perform hand hygiene prior to screening and given proper direction on proper method of hand hygiene.
3. Ensure all questions that appear on the screening tool are answered and the visitor passes.
4. Anyone who does not pass the screening will not be allowed to visit.
5. Provide appropriate PPE and ensure donned properly based on the circumstances of the visit.
6. Direct to the testing center.
7. All visitors must have rapid antigen testing and wait for negative results prior to proceeding with the visit.
8. If a visitor tests positive on rapid antigen testing, they may not visit. Direct them to follow up in the community for confirmatory NP swabbing, or to contact their family physician.
9. All visitors will be permitted entry, provided the above criteria are met, regardless of vaccination status.

### **Exceptions:**

1. Inspectors will be permitted access to the home at all times. Inspectors are required to be actively screened and provided appropriate PPE which must be worn for the duration of the visit. There is no requirement for rapid antigen testing.
2. Palliative Residents: There are no restrictions on visitors to palliative residents. Appropriate PPE and precautions will be implemented should the visitor of a palliative resident fail the screening, or test positive on rapid antigen testing.

3. During an outbreak or suspected outbreak situation, only those designated as essential caregivers will be permitted entry to the affected unit. Appropriate PPE must be worn at all times.

All caregivers, visitors, regardless of their vaccination status must remain masked at all times when inside the home, and cannot eat or drink in the presence of residents and others.