

## **Babcock Community Care Centre - Visiting Guidelines –**

**Effective March 5, 2024**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety of our residents, families, staffs, and visitors remains our top priority. The presence of family and friends is an important source of mental and emotional strength for our residents but we must balance this with the safety risks of having an outbreak of Covid in the home. The following guidance supports safe visits following the direction provided to us from the government, public health and infection control best practices.

With the widespread availability of vaccines and anti-virals, adherence to the new Infection and Prevention and Control (IPAC) standard, and the high levels of immunity in the general community, the ministry has recommended the following changes to the long term care home Covid-19 prevention measures effective March 5, 2023:

- Everyone is required to self monitor for symptoms of Covid-19 and other respiratory or infectious diseases. Please do not enter the home if you have any of these conditions to help prevent the spread of illness to our residents.
- Masks are still recommended while visiting inside the home but are not mandatory to be worn by visitors and caregivers. Staff, support workers and volunteers are required to wear a mask in all resident areas during the respiratory virus season. Masks are optional for staff/support workers and volunteers when we are not in respiratory season or as directed by the government / Public Health. Masks are still required during outbreaks, caring for residents with suspect or confirmed infectious illness, and as recommended by the home / public health during certain isolation periods.
- Residents (or substitute decision-makers) may request that a staff member wear a mask when providing care, in alignment with the Residents' Bill of Rights.
- Our front entrance will be open for visitors and staff to enter the home without assistance. Active screeners are not required under the current directives. Masks will be available at the front entrance.
- We no longer require asymptomatic screening or rapid testing of staff, students, volunteers, support workers, caregivers and visitors when entering the home.
- There are no further covid immunization requirements for anyone entering or working in the home
- We are permitted to have general visitors visit residents in their own room (max 4 visitors at a time due to space limitations) as well as in common areas of the home (sitting areas, hallways, dining areas when meals are not occurring). These visits do not need to be scheduled. Children under the age of 1 do not count towards the general visitor maximum.
- We generally recommend visiting occur between the hours of 8:30am to 730pm to limit disturbing other residents. Exceptions are always made for palliative or ill residents.
- Social distancing is not required with the resident and physical contact may occur during the visit.
- Meals with residents are permitted for both general and essential visitors when the home is not in outbreak and/or the resident is not being isolated. Meals can be pre-scheduled in the activity room by contacting our activity director or occur in the resident's room.
- We are no longer scheduling visits (indoor or outdoor) at the home due to the above restrictions being lifted. Virtual visits can still be arranged by speaking with the activity department.
- General visitors are not permitted to visit the resident during an outbreak in the home or if the resident is being isolated as per public health direction. This rule does not apply if the resident is receiving end of life care. Visitors designated as Essential Caregivers are permitted to visit during outbreaks / isolation.

## General Safety Precautions for Visitors:

- For everyone's safety, anyone who is on self-isolation, has flu-like or other infectious disease symptoms, or is being tested or positive for COVID-19 are asked not to visit at the home. Please wait until you are well for the safety of our residents. Please see your healthcare provider if you are uncertain about your condition.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE – e.g. masks, eye protection when required) will be provided for those visitors wishing to wear them and for Essential Caregivers during outbreak / isolation visits.
- When the home is in outbreak or visiting with a resident who is isolating: please *keep the face mask on at all times, ensure the mask covers your mouth, nose and chin at all times and wear the protective eyewear when directed by staff.*
- Follow hand hygiene (handwashing or use of hand sanitizer) procedures. Perform when entering/exiting the facility **and** when entering/leaving the resident room / designated visiting area
- Except for service dogs, animals cannot accompany visitors unless we are provided up to date shot information on the pet. This can be arranged with the activity department.
- Any non-adherence to these rules could be the basis for discontinuation of visits at the discretion of the home's Administrator.

## Family members designated as "Essential Caregivers":

There are special rules for visitors designated as "Essential Caregivers" for a resident. These are visitors that the resident / POA has requested assist with care of the resident including feeding, toileting, transfers, etc. Please see the full definition of Essential Caregiver at the end of this package.

If a resident/family requests this option, administration will discuss the request with the parties involved to make sure we are following current government regulations.

Essential caregivers are permitted to visit their loved during an outbreak in the home or if the resident is being isolated unless otherwise directed by Public Health.

Please call and ask to speak with our Director of Care about becoming an essential caregiver for your loved one.

## Resident Leaves of Absence:

**Social Absences** (day leaves) are permitted for all residents (unless resident is in isolation or home is in outbreak)

**Overnight Leaves** for social purposes are permitted for all residents regardless of vaccination status.

Resident leaves for appointments, outdoor physical activity (walks and outdoor programs), palliative absences, and other medical needs are permitted.

For off-site leaves, we will provide the resident with a mask and ask that the resident and visitor adhere to social distancing guidelines while away from the home to help avoid catching anything and potentially bringing it back into the home.

**Day Absences / returns from other facilities / admissions:** Upon their return/admission to the home, the resident will no longer be screened or have their temperature taken unless they are experiencing symptoms of covid-19 or as otherwise directed by Public Health. Residents will be monitored daily for infection but will no longer have to have daily temperature checks unless assessed as needing so. No isolation or Covid-19 testing is required unless the resident has covid or other infectious disease symptoms.

**If there is a known exposure to covid that occurred during the outing:** The resident will **not** need to be isolated upon return to the home. A rapid and PCR test will be completed on day 1 of the return and a rapid and PCR swab will be completed again on Day 5. No isolation will be required unless the resident develops symptoms or has a positive test result.

Please contact the home and speak with the charge nurse to let them know your plans so we can have the resident ready in advance of the appointment/outing.

## **Definitions:**

### **Essential Caregiver:**

An individual who,

- (a) is a family member or friend of a resident or a person of importance to a resident,
- (b) is able to comply with all applicable laws including any applicable directives, orders, guidance, advice or recommendations 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, has approval from a parent or legal guardian to be designated as a caregiver.

## PPE (masking)

First use provided hand sanitizer on your hands

- Place mask over nose and under chin
- Secure ties, loops or straps
- Mould metal piece to your nose bridge
- For respirators, perform a seal-check



## HAND HYGIENE

To clean hands properly, rub all parts of the hands and wrists with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. Pay special attention to fingertips, between fingers, backs of hands and base of the thumbs.

# How to handrub

Rub hands for 15 seconds

- 

1 Apply 1 to 2 pumps of product to palms of dry hands.
- 

2 Rub hands together, palm to palm.
- 

3 Rub in between and around fingers.
- 

4 Rub back of each hand with palm of other hand.

Rub hands for 15 seconds

- 

5 Rub fingertips of each hand in opposite palm.
- 

6 Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hand.
- 

7 Rub hands until product is dry. Do not use paper towels.
- 

8 Once dry, your hands are safe.

 JUST CLEAN YOUR HANDS



Catalogue No. C30-2152/2014 30M Jan/04 © Queen's Printer for Ontario

# How to handwash

Lather hands for 15 seconds

- 

1 Wet hands with warm water.
- 

2 Apply soap.
- 

3 Lather soap and rub hands palm to palm.
- 

4 Rub in between and around fingers.

Lather hands for 15 seconds

- 

5 Rub back of each hand with palm of other hand.
- 

6 Rub fingertips of each hand in opposite palm.
- 

7 Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hand.
- 

8 Rinse thoroughly under running water.

- 

9 Pat hands dry with paper towel.
- 

10 Turn off water using paper towel.
- 

11 Your hands are now safe.

 JUST CLEAN YOUR HANDS



Catalogue No. C30-2152/2014 30M Jan/04 © Queen's Printer for Ontario