

LTC Enhanced Measures

Area / Previous Policy	Enhanced Measures
<p>Vaccinations - All staff, students, volunteers, and support workers must be fully vaccinated by December 13th to enter the home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General visitors who are not fully vaccinated are not permitted entry (exception for visiting a resident receiving end of life care and medically exempted, who would be restricted to resident rooms); effective December 15th • Infants under 1 year are not considered visitors, no testing or immunization required • Caregivers who are not fully vaccinated are not permitted entry (exception for palliative, medically exempted); first dose by December 20th, and all required doses by February 21st; partially/unvaccinated caregivers restricted to resident rooms • Residents can designate max. of 2 caregivers (unless already designated); new caregivers must be fully vaccinated • Outdoor visits still permitted for unvaccinated, where feasible*
<p>Surveillance Testing - Fully vaccinated individuals exempt from regular testing; may be randomly tested</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test all fully vaccinated staff, students, volunteers, caregivers, 2x min per week • Visitors / support workers require negative test upon entry regardless of vaccination status, unless have negative test from previous day • Testing now required for outdoor visits • Individuals previously infected with COVID-19 must resume surveillance testing after 30 days
<p>Visitors - Ministry does not specify limits on visitors or number of caregivers designated per resident and leaves to discretion of the home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Outdoor</i> visits: up to 4 visitors/caregivers total per resident at a time* • <i>Indoor</i> visits: up to 2 visitors/caregivers per resident at a time
<p>Activities (communal dining, social activities, exercise classes) - Cohorting only required for communal dining; no limits on numbers for group activities; staff cohorting required as much as possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort residents for high-risk activities (singing, dancing etc.) and dining • Discourage large group social activities • Fully vaccinated caregivers and visitors may accompany a resident for meals to assist a resident with eating, however the caregiver should remain masked at all times and not join in the meal

2 * Some homes have outdoor capacity throughout winter

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<p>Day Absences (social purposes) - All absences permitted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day absences for social purposes permitted for fully vaccinated only*; • Actively screened upon return, rapid tested <u>and</u> PCR tested at Day 3 upon return and at Day 7, not isolated unless tested positive; • If known exposure to a case, PCR test on day 1 and day 7 and isolate until a negative result is confirmed from day 7
<p>Overnight Absences (social purposes) - All absences permitted; residents not fully vaccinated require PCR test on days 0 & 8 with 10 days isolation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overnight absences for social purposes suspended* • Residents who wish to leave the home for the holidays or due to COVID-19 may be temporarily discharged and need to follow the re-admission protocol in order to return at a later date.
<p>Admissions/Transfers - Residents not fully vaccinated require PCR test on days 0 & 8 with 10 days isolation</p> <p>Note: in an outbreak, admissions/transfers still only permitted if approved by local PHU and there is concurrence between the home, PHU, and hospital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced symptom screening for all returns/admissions/transfers (not including day absence), and twice daily symptom screening for 10 days following the admission/transfer • For admissions/transfers from another healthcare facility that is not in outbreak: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated and no known exposure to a case - PCR test prior to admission or on arrival, isolate until a negative test result is received • For all other returns/admissions/transfers (not including day absences) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCR test prior to admission or on arrival and at day 7 and isolate until negative test result from day 7 confirmed
<p>Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) - Must follow IPAC requirements in Directive 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directing homes to ensure audits are happening every two weeks and weekly if in outbreak • Remind homes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHO and OCMOH IPAC best practices • Infrastructure Ontario 10-point plan on ventilation • PHO guidance on ventilation • Reinforce staff cohorting, including during breaks, and encourage virtual staff meetings where possible

3 *Exception for essential, medical or compassionate absences

Summary of Omicron:

- Risk of household transmission 3.2x higher with Omicron vs. Delta, severity still being determined however hospitalizations are increasing
- Two doses of mRNA not as effective against Omicron however booster is encouraged
- Avoid large gatherings as Omicron so transmissible and is becoming dominant strain
- Can become infected with more than one strain
- Making booster mandatory is currently under discussion, not currently mandatory but highly recommended

Questions & Answers:

Screening:

***** Staff should not be providing direct care to Residents until 15 minutes after they have had their rapid antigen test.**

Leaves of Absence

- Social Overnight Absence – Resident would be formally discharged, bed reopened for another admission and the resident would need to follow readmission process through home and community care
- Essential Medical and Compassionate Leaves still permitted – this includes
- Resident on day absences for social purposes will be actively screened for symptoms, not isolated unless known exposure, rapid and PCR tested day 3 and PCR again on day 7
- Medical absences will addressed in the FAQs
- No testing requirements for those taking Residents out

Outdoor visits

Will require everyone to be tested before visit

Maximum 4 people for outdoor visits

- People taking Residents out do not need to be tested

Visitors:

Under the age of 5 – risk too high to let in visitors who are not fully vaccinated. Under age 1, not considered a visitor.

Large Group Activities

- Maximum 10 indoors

Dining

- No change to communal dining at this time, still be cohorted, distancing between tables
- **Fully immunized caregivers can no longer share a meal with Residents and should keep a mask on at all times.**

End of Life Care – no restriction on number of visitors for Residents at end of life/palliative