

Throughout the pandemic the government has issued directives that address masking, testing, vaccinations and visitor restrictions to ensure safety for residents, visitors, volunteers and staff. The Ontario government's health ministries announced removal of key COVID-19 directives, transferring oversight for these matters directly to the health service provider.

Riverside Health Care has adjusted its COVID-19 visitation requirements for Long Term Care.

Starting immediately:

- All general visitors can resume visits. General visitors, with the exception of children under the age of 5, will need to follow Riverside's vaccination policy. The number of indoor visitors (including caregivers) per resident at a time increases to four (4).
- Limits on outdoor visits will be lifted and homes can return to their regular practices on use of their available outdoor spaces. Testing for outdoor visits will no longer be required.
- All residents may go on overnight temporary absences, regardless of vaccination status (see attached *Visitor Absences* for further details).
- Testing of residents returning from day or overnight absences at established intervals will continue until further notice to identify as early as possible any individual who may become infected with COVID-19 in order to reduce transmission in the home.
- Cohorting will no longer be required for social activities with the exception that this practice must be maintained for dining.
- Social group activities can be increased in size (more than 10)

Reminder:

- Masks are required at all times. Visitors are able to assist Residents with meals, however not able to eat a meal/snack with Resident at this time.
- Visitor surveillance testing protocols remain in place.
 - Vaccinated visitors will be tested 2 times a week
 - Unvaccinated visitors will be tested each visit.

Please refer to the three (3) attached Ministry of Long-Term Care documents for additional information.

We thank you for your continued support and commitment to protecting the health and safety of those in our care, their loved ones, our team members and the community.

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