Société Alzheimer Society
ONTARIO

Key Messages, Care Partner Access to Long-Term Care

This document summarises key points local Society leadership, staff, clients, and community advocates may wish to raise in conversations with decision makers on caregiver access to long-term care. These messages should be used in conjunction with "Care Partners are Not Visitors", a position statement from the Alzheimer Society of Ontario.

- **Care partners are not visitors**. The term "visitor" implies a casual relationship, not the vital support that care partners provide.
- **Care partner access is not a convenience**. Any restrictions imposed by homes must be based solely on resident safety, not lack of staff time or personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Covid-19 is not the only threat to resident wellbeing**. Social isolation has serious and lasting impacts on the physical and mental wellbeing of seniors, especially those living with dementia. The very real threat of Covid-19 must be balanced against the risk of irreversible harm to isolated residents.
- **Access is a right**. The Residents' Bill of Rights clearly and without qualification protects the right of all residents to "receive visitors of his or her choice".
- **Care partners will cooperate**. The number one priority of care partners is the safety of their loved one. Care partners will gladly wear PPE and follow other restrictions necessary to guarantee the safety of all residents.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF ONTARIO / SOCIÉTÉ ALZHEIMER DE L'ONTARIO
20 Eglinton Ave. West, 16th Floor, Toronto ON M4R 1K8 / 20, Ave Eglinton Ouest, 16 Étage, Toronto ON M4R 1K8
Tel/Tél: (416) 967-5900 • Fax/Téléc: (416) 967-3826 • www.alzheimerontario.ca • staff@alzon.ca
Charitable Registration / Numéro D'Organisme De Charité # 11878 4842 RR00001