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Caregivers as Partners:

What Caregivers Can Expect from Long Term Care Homes

The following provides an overview of what caregivers can expect when they visit a long term care home. This information is subject to change based on updates from the Ministry of Long-Term Care or your local Public Health unit.

The information presented here applies specifically to designated caregivers and not social or general visitors to long-term care homes.



WHAT TO EXPECT	
Designation of caregivers	Caregivers should be designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision maker and not the long-term care home. This should be done in writing and in advance of the caregiver's visit to the long-term care home. Each resident (who is not self-isolating or symptomatic) can have up to two designated caregivers present at any one time.
Caregivers will be able to provide care to residents in the home	Designated caregivers providing direct care to residents (including but not limited to assistance with meals, mobility, meaningful connection) are considered essential visitors and will be granted access to provide care to the resident in the long-term care home.
If the home is in outbreak or resident is self-isolating or symptomatic	If the home is in outbreak or if the resident is self-isolating/ displaying symptoms of COVID-19, the resident can only have one designated caregiver present at any one time.
The home will provide you with information	The home will provide information to designated caregivers that includes their COVID-19 visitor policy and how they will deal with non-adherence to these policies and procedures which may include being asked to leave. They will also provide information about their infection control measures and training on how to safely provide care to the resident (which includes use of personal protective equipment and hand hygiene).

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<p>Testing and Screening</p>	<p><u>Designated caregivers seeing a resident must be tested for COVID-19 and receive a negative test result within 14 days of coming to the home.</u> Designated caregivers will need to verbally confirm that they have tested negative and have not visited a resident who is self-isolating or symptomatic and/or a home in an outbreak.</p> <p>Designated caregivers will be asked standard COVID-19 screening questions about recent travel, symptoms, and exposure to someone who has or may have COVID-19. You will be asked these screening questions several times at different points leading up to and including the day that you come to the home. Homes are required to ask these questions and you are required to provide honest and accurate responses.</p>
<p>Health & Safety</p>	<p>Designated caregivers are expected to follow existing <u>public health guidelines</u> and avoid unnecessary trips into the community. Upon entering the home, you will need to use hand sanitizer and wear a mask and any additional protective equipment required by the home. It is important that caregivers follow the implemented protocol for visits to maintain a safe environment for residents, staff, and other visiting caregivers. The home will provide the designated caregiver with personal protective equipment, training about how to properly use this equipment, hand hygiene and how to safely provide direct care to the resident.</p>

For more information about directives and other items related to COVID-19 Resources, visit the official Ministry of Long-Term Care website: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/dir_mem_res.aspx

For more information about the specific policy at your long-term care home, request a visitor policy package from the home and/or reach out to the home’s “Family and/or Resident Council”.

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