

Facility	DOWNSVIEW LTCC		POLICY & PROCEDURE	
Department	NURSING	Category	GENERAL	Policy Number ICM-XIV -010
Subject	Visitor Policy		Issuing Authority	Administrator
Effective Date	November 2025	Supersedes	July 2024	Page 1 of 4

Policy

It is the policy of Downsview Long Term Care Centre (DLTCC) to follow the requirements related to the Visitor Policy under section 267 of O. Reg. 246/22 under Fixing Long Term Care Act (FLTCA), 2021.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to respect the Residents' Bill of Rights and ensures essential visitors continue to have access to residents in the home during infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics/epidemics, subject to applicable laws.

Definitions:

As per section 267 (4) of O. Reg. 246/22 under FLTCA, 2021 there are four (4) types of essential visitors, as follows:

- 1) A **caregiver**, as defined under section 4 of O. Reg. 246/22, means 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 or health appointed under the n 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 the 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
- 2) A **Support Worker** who visits a home to provide support to the critical operations of the home or to provide essential services to residents.
- 3) A **person visiting a very ill resident** for compassionate reasons including, but not limited to, hospice services or end-of-life

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Subject	Visitor Policy		Issuing Authority	Administrator
Effective Date	November 2025	Supersedes	July 2024	Page 4 of 4

- 4) A **government inspector** with a statutory right to enter a long-term care home to carry out their duties.

General Visitor – is a person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting to provide non-essential services related to either the operations of the home or a particular resident or group of residents. General visitors include persons visiting for social reasons as well as visitors providing non-essential services such as personal care services, entertainment, or individuals touring the home.

Long-term care home operators may restrict the number of visitors per resident based on available space and applicable guidance and laws. There are no provincially set limits on the number of individuals permitted to visit for indoor or outdoor gatherings.

PROTOCOL

A. ACCESS TO THE HOME:

1. SCREENING

As it is an important tool aimed at reducing the risk of infectious illnesses within homes, passive screening, or self-monitoring, for COVID-19 is required. At a minimum, long-term care homes must:

- Establish and communicate an operational plan including guidance for staff, students, volunteers, support workers, caregivers, and general visitors to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Provide individuals with information (for example, screening questions) to monitor their health at home for COVID-19 symptoms and inform them that they are not permitted to enter the home if they are feeling ill or would otherwise fail screening.
 - Homes are not required to request verification or an attestation upon entry to the home. Nor are homes required to have staff conduct or verify screening at the door.
- For residents, while active screening upon return from an absence and daily temperature checks are no longer required, LTC homes will continue to be required to monitor residents daily to detect the presence of infection, including COVID-19, per section 3 of the IPAC Standard.

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Subject	Visitor Policy		Issuing Authority	Administrator
Effective Date	November 2025	Supersedes	July 2024	Page 4 of 4

- Post signage at LTC home entrances and throughout the home that lists the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, for self-monitoring and steps that must be taken if COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed in any individual.

2. MASKING

Strongly recommending visitors and caregivers to mask in resident areas indoors except with the resident in the resident's room or when eating or drinking with a resident in communal spaces.

If a resident in a shared room is uncomfortable with others removing their mask, homes are encouraged to designate a space to enable the roommate to have visitors without masking.

3. OUTBREAK

In outbreak situations, or if a resident is on Additional Precautions, all individuals are required to comply with masking and other personal protective equipment requirements as directed by the outbreak management team and the local public health unit.

4. SCHEDULING AND FREQUENCY OF VISITS.

	OUTBREAK SITUATION or WHEN RESIDENT IS ISOLATING	NON-OUTBREAK SITUATION
Essential Visitors	Allowed to enter at any given time	No limit in total number of essential visitors
Caregivers	Only one (1) caregiver may visit at a time. However, when resident receives an end-of-life care, there are no restrictions of the number of visitors permitted Note: The caregiver should not visit any other home for 10 days after visiting: a) a resident with a	Schedule visits in advance and visits are done during specified hours

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Subject	Visitor Policy		Issuing Authority	Administrator
Effective Date	November 2025	Supersedes	July 2024	Page 4 of 4

	confirmed case of COVID-19 b) an individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms	
	May volunteer and support up to two (2) residents who are COVID-19 positive provided the home obtains consent from involved residents or the substitute decision maker (SDM)	May volunteer and support more than one (1) resident provided the home obtains consent from involved residents or the substitute decision maker (SDM)
General Visitors	Not permitted to visit indoors when: a) home or area of a home is in outbreak b) to visit isolating resident c) when local public health unit so directs Note: If only a portion of the home is in outbreak, residents unaffected by the outbreak may still have a visitor both indoor and outdoor.	All general visitors, including children under age of 5 are allowed to visit. General visitors, with exception of children under age of 5, will follow vaccination policy of the home on date of visit.
		INDOOR VISIT: No limit in the number of visitors.
		OUTDOOR VISIT: No limit in the number of visitors.

B. NON-COMPLIANCE BY VISITORS

The home has the discretion to end a visit or prohibit a visitor (including caregivers) from visiting in response to repeated and non-compliance with the herein policy and when the visitor's behavior affects the home's ability to ensure a safe and secure home.