



ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP

COVID-19 IMS Operating Policies & Procedures

Title: IMS-03-020 - Visitation in Hogarth Riverview Manor and Bethammi Nursing Home

Effective Date: July 16, 2021

Approved By: COVID-19 IMS Steering Committee

Revised Date: October 19, 2022

Applicable Sites:

St. Joseph's Hospital

North/South

East

SJCG Administration

Hogarth Riverview Manor

Sister Leila Greco Apartments

The Link / Corporate Tenants

St. Joseph's Heritage

Bethammi Nursing Home

PR Cook Apartments

Corporate Tenants

The Manor House

Medium Support Housing

High Support Housing

St. Joseph's Health Centre

Sister Margaret Smith Centre

Balmoral Centre

Lodge on Dawson

All St. Joseph's Care Group Sites

1. PURPOSE

Direction for long-term care home (LTCH) visits is in place to protect the health and safety of residents, staff and visitors, while supporting residents in receiving the care they need and maintaining their emotional wellbeing. These rules are in addition to the requirements established in the Long-Term Care Homes Act (LTCHA) and Ontario Regulation 79/10.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to Hogarth Riverview Manor and Bethammi Nursing Home.

3. DEFINITIONS

Support Worker

A support worker is a type of visitor who is visiting to perform support services for the home or for a resident at the home. Examples of support workers include physicians, nurse practitioners and physiotherapists, provided they are not staff of the LTCH as defined in the LTCHA.

Caregiver

A caregiver is a type of visitor who is designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident (e.g. supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision making).

General Visitor

A general visitor is a person who is not a caregiver or support worker and is visiting:

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- a. To provide non-essential services, who may or may not be hired by the home or the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker; and/or
- b. For social reasons (e.g. family members or friends) that the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker assess as different from direct care.

LTCH staff, volunteers and placement students are not considered visitors as their access to the home is determined by St. Joseph's Care Group.

4. PROCEDURE

Step	Description
1	Visitors will read and attest to reading, at a minimum once per month, this Visitor Policy and reviewing infection prevention and control information provided by the home, which includes putting on and taking off required PPE and performing hand hygiene.
2	Visitors will be actively screened for symptoms of and exposure to COVID-19 and will not be permitted to visit if they do not pass the screening.
3	Visitors must attest to not experiencing any of the typical or atypical symptoms of COVID-19.
4	For indoor visits, all visitors, except children under the age of five years, must provide proof of two doses + 14 days of a Health Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccine) or a medical exemption. Indoor visitors must wear a medical mask when in common spaces. When visiting in the resident's bedroom/private space in a shared room, a mask may be removed if no other residents or staff are present. If the visit occurs within a shared room the curtain must be closed to remove a medical mask
5	Indoor and outdoor visitors are encouraged to maintain physical distancing when possible.
6	Indoor visitors must demonstrate that they are following the Antigen testing protocol detailed in the Minister's Directive: COVID-19 Long-Term Care Home Surveillance Testing and Access to Homes.
7	A maximum of four (4) visitors are allowed to visit indoors at one time.
8	Caregivers and Support Workers will be the only type of visitors allowed when a resident is self-isolating or symptomatic, or the home is in a COVID-19 outbreak. <i>Note: During an outbreak and/or a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit will provide suggested direction on visitors to the home, depending on the specific situation.</i>
9	A visitor may not visit any other resident or home for 10 days after visiting another resident who is self-isolating and/or a home in a COVID-19 outbreak where the visitor was in a portion of the home affected by the outbreak.
10	Caregivers, on the homes list, who have not shown proof of vaccination may visit the resident, whom they are listed as the caregiver following the below criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass active screening prior to entering the home. • Provide proof of a negative Antigen test resulted within 24 hours of the each visit. • Visiting must occur in the resident's bedroom.

Non-compliance for visitors:

Non-compliance with the home's policies could result in discontinuation or termination of a visit(s) for the non-compliant visitor. In the event of non-compliance by a visitor:

Step	Description
1	The home will review the Visitor Policy with the non-compliant visitor including the Infection Prevention and Control measures.
2	Home management, including approval of Director of Care (DOC) or Administrator, will use their discretion to end a visit after repeated non-compliance to the Visitor Policy, provided:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The home has explained the applicable requirement(s) to the visitor; b. The non-compliant visitor has been given resources to adhere to the requirement (e.g. there is sufficient space to physically distance; the home has supplied PPE and demonstrated how to properly put PPE on); and c. The non-compliant visitor has been given sufficient time to adhere to the requirement(s).
3	<p>Home management, including approval of the Administrator, will use their discretion to temporarily prohibit a visitor in response to a repeated or flagrant non-compliance, including determining a reasonable length of time for the prohibition. Temporary prohibitions will be made only after all other reasonable efforts to maintain safety during visits have been exhausted, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Repeated attempts to explain and demonstrate how the visitor can adhere to the requirements are not successful. b. Visitor refusal to follow the requirements of the Visitor Policy. c. The visitor has negatively impacted the health and safety of residents, staff and/or other visitors in the home. d. The visitor demonstrates non-compliance continuously over multiple visits. <p>Note: The visitor will be required to re-read the Visitor Policy and review the Infection Prevention and Control measures before visits are resumed.</p>

5. RELATED PRACTICES AND/OR LEGISLATIONS

Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007.
 COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario (October 2022)

6. REFERENCES

IMS-03-001 - Identification and Management
 Ontario COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open