



A Non-Profit Charitable hub of services including:

Long-Term Care
Seniors Independent Living
Community Outreach
& Training Programs

"Together, we are devoted to making a difference."

March 11, 2022

Dear Residents, Families and Staff,

In consultation with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of Long-Term care has shared that trends in key public health and health system indicators continue to improve each week. Real world evidence shows the number of outbreaks and active staff and resident cases within long-term care homes has decreased substantially over the past few weeks. The Ministry continues to strive to achieve a balance between protecting residents from the risk of COVID-19 and supporting the overall quality of life and health and wellbeing of residents. As a next step, the Ministry is moving forward with further recalibration of measures which include:

- Shifting to a guidance-based approach to support long-term care homes with employer-driven immunization policies,
- Updating the testing directive to reflect the latest advice of public health experts, and
- Adjusting measures related to visitors, resident absences and resident cohorting.

Here are some highlights of the changes effective March 14, 2022:

- All general visitors, including children under the age of 5, can visit homes. Visitors (including caregivers), with the exception of children under the age of 5, need to follow the vaccination policy of the individual long-term care home.
- Outdoor visits can be any size, space permitting.
- There can be up to 4 general visitors and/or caregivers visiting a resident at one time.
- All residents can go on social overnight absences.
- Social activities can be among different groups of residents. Cohorting is required for dining only.
- Social group activities can be larger in size while crowding should be avoided and masking continued, including for residents where tolerated.
- Staff will continue to be cohorted where possible.

All homes now have a vaccination policy in place, so the provincial directive requiring homes to follow the mandatory vaccination guidelines established by the Ministry will be revoked, effective March 14, 2022. Vaccination does remain a key defense against COVID-19 and all Ontarians who are eligible are encouraged to get vaccinated.

To streamline the updates from the Ministry, we have attached a chart with all changes effective March 14, 2022.

If you have questions, please contact whcc.info@westhuroncarecentre.com or 519-236-4373 ext. 622.

Please share this information with other family and friends of your resident. Thank you for your continued understanding, support, and trust, as we have navigated the changes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will continue to follow the guidance of Huron Perth Public Health and the Ministry of Long-Term Care as the pandemic continues to evolve, and will share any updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

WHCC Leadership



Easing Enhanced Measures				
Effective March 14, 2022				
GV = General Visitors EC = Essential Caregivers EV = Essential Visitors				
Screening	Surveillance Testing	Absences	Visiting	Palliative/End-of-Life Visitors
<p>PPE will be provided upon entry by screening team, if required, for anyone entering WHCC/BWRH. COVID-19 vaccination QR is required to enter (Ministry and Health Inspectors and children under 5 years of age are exempt from showing proof of vaccination).</p> <p>All visitors are required to follow WHCC/BWRH Visitor Policy.</p> <p>Children 1 year and under are not required to have a Rapid Antigen Test.</p> <p>Children 2 years and under are not required to wear a mask.</p> <p>Indoor visitors are required to complete Rapid Antigen Test and wait for results. Frequency of testing will be based on current guidance.</p> <p>Outdoor visitors are required to pass active screening upon arrival and will be provided a medical mask, which must be worn for duration of visit. <u>Rapid Antigen Testing is NOT REQUIRED.</u></p> <p>Residents will continue to be actively screened upon entry from LOA's.</p>	<p>All staff, indoor visitors, including EC's are required to complete Rapid Antigen Test and wait for results. Frequency of testing will be based on current guidance (for example, if you were tested the previous day, you are not required to complete testing).</p> <p>If proof of negative Rapid Antigen Test or PCR from previous day is provided, no test required on current day.</p> <p>Someone who has had a confirmed case of COVID-19 will resume surveillance testing 90 days post-infection, except with new onset of signs/symptoms of COVID-19, exposure to confirmed case of COVID-19, COVID-19 outbreak in LTC home, or by HPPH.</p> <p>*Outdoor visitors are <u>not required to complete Rapid Antigen testing*</u></p> <p>Children 1 year and under are not required to have a Rapid Antigen Test.</p> <p>Parental consent must be given for minors required to test.</p>	<p>All residents are permitted to take a Leave of Absence, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Visiting a resident on WHCC/BWRH or Zurich Mennonite Church property is <u>not considered an LOA.</u></p> <p>Residents returning from all LOA's will complete testing based on current guidance, for example: All day absences for medical, compassionate, or short term will complete a Rapid Antigen Test and PCR test on day 5 following LOA and no isolation). Overnight absences will follow the same guidance as admissions, including COVID-19 testing and possible isolation.</p> <p>Residents who have frequent day absences (for medical need as an example), will continue to complete testing in accordance to current guidance. *For all LOA's, we encourage you to provide a minimum of 24hrs notice by calling the RN at ext. 626.*</p>	<p>Residents are eligible to designate 4 Essential Caregiver's. This is coordinated through the Director of Care.</p> <p>All general visitors, including children under 5 years of age, can resume visits. General visitors, except for children under the age of 5, will need to follow the vaccination policy of WHCC/BWRH. General visitors 14 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.</p> <p>Residents can have up to 4 visitors at one time indoors, including EC's. All visitors are required to wear a mask for the duration of the visit.</p> <p>Outdoor visits can resume, with no maximum on the number of visitors, space permitting. All visitors must wear a mask</p>	<p>Palliative/End-of-Life visitors are not required to actively screen or complete Rapid Antigen testing.</p> <p>Palliative/EOL visitors must follow PPE guidelines and actively screen upon entry.</p> <p>There is no maximum number of visitors when a resident is Palliative or EOL.</p> <p>All EOL will be screened upon entry. If fail screening, visitor will be permitted entry; however, must wear 4-piece PPE (eye protection, gown, mask, gloves), which is determined by Point of Care Risk Assessment.</p>

<p>Emergency First Responders and End-of-Life visitors are not required to actively screen or complete Rapid Antigen testing.</p>	<p>Emergency First Responders and End-of-Life visitors are not required to actively screen or complete Rapid Antigen testing.</p> <p>Residents returning from all LOA's will complete testing based on current guidance, for example: All day absences for medical, compassionate, or short term will complete a Rapid Antigen Test and PCR test on day 5 following LOA and no isolation). Overnight absences will follow the same guidance as admissions, including COVID-19 testing and possible isolation.</p> <p>Residents who have frequent day absences (for medical need as an example), will continue to complete testing in accordance to current guidance.</p>		<p>for the duration of the visit, pass active screening. Rapid Antigen testing is not required. PSW team will support residents to the lobby to meet their visitor. *To schedule your Outdoor Visit, please call the screening desk by 7:30am the day of at 519-236-4373 ext. 640.*</p> <p>Visiting a resident on WHCC/BWRH or Zurich Mennonite Church property is <u>not considered an LOA</u>, otherwise, resident will need to follow LOA guidance.</p> <p>Visitors are welcome to join their resident at activities & programs, providing space permits. Activation staff will provide direction. *Currently, visitors are not eligible to eat with their resident at WHCC/BWRH, regardless of vaccination status.*</p>	
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Programs & Activities	Dining
<p>Organized events and social gatherings are permitted, with no limit on participant numbers. Residents are welcome to visit family/friends in other home area.</p> <p>Residents are not required to cohort, unless participating a program that includes food or drink.</p> <p>Entertainment is welcome to resume inside, where performer may unmask for during performance if they can remain physically distanced from spectators.</p> <p>Off-site excursions can resume.</p> <p>Residents continued to be encouraged to wear a mask where tolerated; allow for physical distancing; and perform regular hand hygiene.</p> <p>Visitors are welcome to join their residents at program or activity, providing space permits. Activation will provide direction.</p>	<p>Communal dining is permitted, and residents will be transitioned back to 4 per table.</p> <p>Residents encouraged to wear a mask when not eating/drinking where tolerated, and cohorting during all meals will be followed.</p> <p>Buffet and family style meals are permitted.</p> <p>Support of a resident during mealtime is permitted, however, visitor cannot join/eat with resident.</p>

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