



...by authority of the Board of Directors

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES		<i>POLICY #:</i>	PANP_5_1
<i>TITLE/SUBJECT:</i>		Visiting Residents during COVID-19	
<i>DEPT:</i>	Pandemic Planning	<i>PAGE:</i>	1 OF 5
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POLICY:

Blue Water Rest Home’s visiting policy is based on the requirements outlined in the updated Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007* issued on December 24, 2021.

Our visitor policy reflects the guiding principles of safety, emotional well-being, equitable access, flexibility and equality.

PROCEDURE:

Definitions:

Essential Visitors-A person performing essential support services i.e., food delivery, inspector, maintenance, or health care services (phlebotomy, x-ray etc.) or a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident. Support workers and caregivers are types of essential visitors.

- A support worker is a type of essential visitor who is visiting to perform essential services for the home or for a resident at the home i.e., health care workers that are not staff of the long-term care home as defined in the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*.
- A caregiver is a type of essential 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. Examples of caregivers include family members who provide meaningful connection, privately hired caregiver, paid companions, and translators. A maximum of 4 caregivers (must be at least 16 years of age) may be designated per resident at a time.

General Visitors- A person who is not an essential visitor and visiting to provide non-essential services or for social reasons.

Visiting Guidelines:

An essential visitor who is visiting a severely ill or palliative resident may visit at any time and does not require rapid antigen testing per the Ministry Directive.



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1. Essential Visitors (includes support workers)

- Up to four caregivers may be designated by a resident.
- Caregivers may visit inside or outside of the home, including when a resident is self-isolating or symptomatic.
- A caregiver may not visit any other resident or home within 10 days after visiting another resident who is self-isolating and/or, a home in an outbreak where the caregiver was in a portion o the home affected by the outbreak.
- At the time of their first visit, essential caregivers will receive a training package with guidelines on donning and doffing PPE, hand hygiene and a copy of the essential caregiver’s hand-out, containing the homes visiting policy.
- Retraining of the essential caregivers will happen annually.

2. General Visitors

- General visitors including children under the age of 5 years are permitted to visit a resident either inside or outside of the home, provided the resident is not symptomatic or isolating.
- Up to 4 visitors may visit at a time
- No limitations on frequency or length of visit, unless otherwise communicated by BWRH.
- General visitors younger than 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult and must follow all applicable public health measures that are in place at the home (i.e., active screening, physical distancing, hand hygiene, masking for source control).

3. Screening and Visitor Logs

- All staff, visitors, caregivers, contractors, and support workers must be actively screened for symptoms and exposure history for COVID-19 before they can enter BWRH and for outdoor visits.
- BWRH will maintain the visitor logs (including name and contact information of the visitor, date and time of the visit and the resident that is visited) for a minimum of 30 days to facilitate contact management in the event of an exposure or COVID-19 outbreak.
- Caregivers must attest that in the last 10 days they have not visited another resident who is self-isolating or symptomatic and/or another LTCH where the caregiver was in a portion of the home affected by an outbreak.
- First responders are permitted entry without active screening in emergency situations.



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- Any visitor /caregiver that fails screening will not be allowed to enter BWRH. They will be advised to immediately return home to self-isolate and encouraged to be tested.
- Visitors for imminently palliative residents must be screened prior to entry, however, if they fail screening, they will be permitted to enter wearing a medical/surgical mask, eye protection and gown and must maintain physical distance from other residents and staff.

4. Testing:

All Essential Caregivers, Support Workers, and General Visitors:

- Must provide proof of vaccination
- Must have a negative rapid antigen test result at the time of entry into BWRH.
- Must wear a medical mask at all times while in the home.

5. Personal Protective Equipment Required:

- Must use a medical mask inside the BWRH and during outdoor visits regardless of whether the home is in outbreak or not.
- No eye protection is required indoors unless the resident they are interacting with is in isolation and on Droplet and Contact Precautions.
- No eye protection is required outdoors.

6. Physical Distancing:

Essential Caregiver/General visitor:

- Physical distancing with the resident is not required
- May support in dining room and join in activities.

7. Managing Safe Visits

General Visits (Outdoor)

- Outdoor visitors must be screened but do not require rapid antigen testing prior to the visit.
- Must be booked in advance by contacting the screening desk to schedule a date and time in advance.
- Outdoor visitors are required to wear a mask at all times during the visit.
- There are no limits on the number of individuals space permitting
- Visits will take place outside on the grounds of the BWRH.
- Visits are not supervised but are monitored from a distance to ensure compliance with physical distancing and PPE wear.



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8. Non-Compliance with BWRH’s Visiting Policies:

- ***Non-compliance with BWRH’s visiting policies could result in discontinuation of visits for the non-compliant visitor.***
- BWRH staff will provide verbal feedback to visitors to discuss what areas of BWRH’s visiting policy are not being followed prior to discontinuing any visits.
- If a visitor continues to disregard portions of the visiting policy, even after reminders/support has been provided, visits may be discontinued.
- The emotional/clinical wellbeing of our residents will be considered prior to discontinuing visits.
- BWRH has the discretion to end a visit by any visitor who repeatedly fails to adhere to our visiting policy such as refusing to wear or removing PPE or not following physical distancing guidelines.
- Reminders regarding applicable requirements will be provided by staff prior to ending a visit.
- To protect our residents, BWRH may temporarily prohibit a visitor in response to repeated and flagrant non-adherence with our visiting policy over several visits. Should this occur, the residents or their substitute decision maker may designate an alternative individual as a caregiver to meet the residents needs.

Visiting During Outbreak

- Should an outbreak be declared at Blue Water Rest Home, the following persons are permitted to visit.
 - Essential caregivers are permitted to visit.
 - Essential visitors for end-of-life residents. (Up to 2 at a time are permitted)
 - A procedure/surgical mask must be worn at all times.
 - Direction will be received from the Huron Perth Public Health Unit as to whether rapid antigen or PCR testing will be most appropriate.

REFERENCES / RELATED DOCUMENTS:

PANP_5_1A DIRECTIVE # 3 FOR LONG-TERM CARE HOMES UNDER *THE LONG-TERM CARE HOMES ACT, 2007*

KEYWORDS:



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Visiting
Essential visitors
General visitors