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ALERT and HIGH ALERT

Background: Effective October 13, 2020, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) announced changes to the Retirement Home COVID-19 Visiting Policy (previously the Reopening Retirement Homes Guidelines).

These changes reflect a shift to a risk-based response system that includes specific actions based on community transmission and infection spread within the sector. Greater restrictions may be put into effect by public health units, if deemed appropriate, beyond what is included in the updated policy.

Identification: The RHRA, in collaboration with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, will identify the homes that require additional actions due to:

- Widespread transmission in the community (Alert); or
- Widespread transmission and infection spread within the sector in the community (High Alert)

Affects on Visiting / Services:

Caregivers

- A maximum of 2 caregivers per resident may visit at a time where: the community has not been identified under Alert or High Alert status, the home is not in outbreak, and the resident is not self-isolating or symptomatic.
- A maximum of 1 caregiver per resident may visit at a time where: the community has been identified under Alert or High Alert status, the home is in outbreak, or the resident is self-isolating or symptomatic.
- If a home is in outbreak or in a community identified under Alert or High Alert status, the local PHU may recommend additional outbreak management control measures which include restriction of essential visitors.

General Visitors

- A maximum of 2 general visitors per resident at a time may visit a resident provided: the resident is not self-isolating or symptomatic; the home is located in a community that has not been identified under Alert or High Alert status; and the home is not in an outbreak.
- A maximum of 1 general visitor designated by the resident at a time may visit that resident in a designated area if the home is located in a community that has been identified under Alert status.

General visitors are not permitted in homes in outbreak or homes in communities identified under High Alert status and may not visit residents that are self-isolating or symptomatic.

Personal Care Service Providers

- A maximum of 1 personal care service provider per resident at a time may visit that resident provided: the resident is not self-isolating or symptomatic; the home is located in a community that has not been identified under Alert or High Alert status; and the home is not in an outbreak.

Personal care service providers are not permitted in homes in outbreak or homes in communities identified under Alert or High Alert status and may not visit residents that are self-isolating or symptomatic.