
 Fairview	 Parkwood	Manual:	Infection Prevention and Control Manual	Reference:	IC012420.00
		Section:	COVID-19 Safety Plan	Created:	06/17/2020
		Subject:	Absences and Social Gatherings for Residents During COVID-19	Revised:	June 9, 2021

POLICY

It is the policy of the Homes that beginning June 9, 2021, there will be a gradual decrease of restrictions for out-patient visits and short stay absences. The Chief Medical Officer of Health along with the LTC Ministry has implemented changes to Directive #3, along with the LTC Guidance document and the Visitor policy.

ABSENCES

For persons accompanying resident for an absence the following is required:

- Report to screening desk and pass active screening.
- Complete a rapid antigen test and wait for results.

Both screening and rapid test must be negative to accompany resident.

1: Medical Absences.

This includes absences to seek medical or health care.

Procedure



1. Residents will be provided with a mask before going out to the appointment.
2. Residents will be educated on use of the mask and instructed to wear the mask for the duration of the outing.
3. Upon return residents will be screened.
4. The resident will continue to be monitored twice daily for symptoms and fever.
5. If at any time the resident shows any symptoms, they will be isolated and contact and droplet precautions will be instituted. This will remain in place until they are swabbed, and a negative result is received.
6. If the Home is in outbreak or the resident is isolated the Home will contact public health to obtain direction.

2. Compassionate and Palliative Absences

Absences for the purposes of visiting a dying loved one. Homes will assess these situations on a case-by-case basis.

If the Home is in outbreak or the resident is isolated the Home will contact public health to obtain direction.

3. Short Term (Day) Absences

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Short term absences are absences that are less than or equal to 24 hours in duration. As of June 9, 2021, social and temporary absences will be permitted for residents who are fully immunized in long term care. Residents in retirement home can go on the absences if either fully or partially immunized resident. Drivers who accompany/assist residents to an outing must pass active screening and have a rapid test with a negative result after passing screening prior to taking the resident out.

There are two types of short-term absences:

A. Social Absences

Short stay absences include absences for all reasons not listed under medical, compassionate/Palliative, and/or essential absences, but do not include an overnight stay.

1. Residents will be provided with a surgical/procedure mask and be reminded to follow routine public health measures including physical distancing, frequent hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
2. Residents should maintain socially distancing from others unless they require assistance/direct care) while they are out.
3. Residents must be actively screened upon their return.
4. Any resident who fails screening will be placed in isolation under droplet and contact precautions and have a PCR test for COVID-19. They must remain in isolation while their test result is pending.



B. Essential Absences

Essential absences include absences for reasons of groceries, pharmacies and outdoor physical activity. All residents, regardless of their immunization status, can participate in essential absences, unless they are in isolation on droplet and contact precautions.

4. Temporary Absences

Temporary absences include absences that involve two or more days and one or more nights for non-medical reasons.

1. Approval for a temporary absence is required from the Home.
2. Residents will be provided with a surgical/procedure mask and be reminded to follow routine public health measures including physical distancing, frequent hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
3. Residents should maintain socially distancing from others unless they require assistance/direct care) while they are out.
4. Residents must be actively screened upon their return.

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5. Retirement Home -Residents who leave the home overnight are required to have a PCR test upon return. Fully immunized residents must remain in isolation on droplet and contact precautions while their test result is pending. If the result is negative, they can discontinue isolation protocols. If not fully immunized they must remain in isolation x 14 days and have another PCR test on Day 10.
6. Long Term Care-Residents must have a PCR test upon return and be isolated until a negative result is returned.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS/INDOOR PROGRAMS

Indoor events and social gatherings can take place with the following precautions:

- Cohorting
- Masking, including for residents where possible/tolerated.
- Avoiding high risk activities (singing).
- Limited capacity in a room to allow physical distancing.
- All participants should physically distance unless a staff member is providing support.
- There should be cleaning/disinfection of high touch surfaces at the end of the event.
- Encourage natural ventilation (open windows) when possible.

Note: Allowances where Homes have met the required immunization rates as specified below:

- a. Long Term Care: 85% resident and 70% employee immunization rate.
- b. Retirement Home: A minimum of 85% of all residents fully immunized; AND
A minimum of 70% of the overall home (residents and staff) fully immunized.

When this criterion has been met and maintained physical distancing can be suspended for the duration of the activity.