

Subject: **VISITATION POLICY**
 Section: **INFECTION CONTROL**
 Approved By: **Senior Management Committee**
 Date Approved: **Oct 26, 2000**
 Date Revised: **April 18, 2023**

Policy Number: **RCM-IC-480**
 Page **1** of **6**

POLICY

To ensure control measures for visitors during regular operations and during outbreak are implemented and enforced to prevent the spread of communicable illness.

GUIDELINES

Complete closure of visitation is not recommended as it may cause emotional hardship to both the residents and relatives; however, direction will be taken from Ministry of Long-Term Care and local Public Health authorities.

Effective Wednesday, September 9th, 2020, residents or their substitute decision maker(s) may designate two caregivers to provide either personal care or emotional support.

DEFINITIONS

Essential Caregiver	“Caregivers” are described as 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). Caregivers must be at least 18 years of age.
Essential Visitor	Essential visitors include a person performing essential support services (e.g., food delivery, inspector, maintenance, or health care services (e.g., phlebotomy)) or a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident. The COVID-19 Visiting Policy clarifies that essential visitors in long-term care homes include support workers and caregivers. However, an essential visitor does not need to be a support worker or caregiver, as long as they meet the definition under Directive #3.
General Visitor	A general visitor is someone who visits the resident but does not provide essential care or services.
Support Worker	A support worker is a type of essential visitor who is visiting to perform essential support services for the home or for a resident at the home. Examples of support workers include physicians, nurse practitioners, maintenance workers or a person delivering food, provided they are not staff of the LTC home as defined in the LTCHA.

PROCEDURE

1. Only essential visits, including those visiting a gravely ill/palliative person will be permitted during outbreak. General visits to residents with symptoms, or residents in isolation, are not permitted. Those entering the home will be advised of potential risks for exposure to illness and the required personal protective equipment (PPE). General visits to residents with symptoms, or residents in isolation, is not permitted
2. Participation with screening, education requirements and PPE is mandatory. Non-compliance with this policy will result in visiting privileges being discontinued.
3. Caregivers must be designated by the resident or their representative in writing. Powers of Attorney or Substitute Decision Makers are not automatically deemed an essential caregiver without notice in writing.
4. Where a visitor has previously tested positive for COVID-19, they may reenter the home after completing a ten-day isolation period.
5. Where a support worker requires immediate access to the home in an emergency, the home does not require a rapid test or active screening measures (i.e. Emergency/Fire Services personnel.)
6. A surgical mask must be worn in accordance with the Universal Masking policy.
7. Fairhaven reserves the right to schedule visits in a manner that prevents overcrowding. Maximum room capacities will be determined by the home.
8. During an outbreak and a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, the local public health unit will provide further direction on visiting homes.
9. Students on placement in a long-term care home are not considered visitors and are not subject to the COVID-19 Visiting Policy. Their access to long-term care homes is determined by the licensee. Screening and PPE requirements for students should align with those for staff.
10. Government inspectors are essential visitors under Directive #3. They are not support workers or caregivers under the COVID-19 visiting policy and are not subject to the COVID-19 Visiting Policy. Government inspectors have legislative powers to enter long-term care homes to carry out their duties.
11. Visitors must sign-in upon arrival and check out prior to leaving.