

December 15, 2021

A message for our families

In response to rising COVID-19 numbers and emergence of the Omicron variant, the Ministry of Long-Term Care has [announced](#) new enhanced measures to protect long-term care (LTC) residents, staff and families.

Based on this new Ministry direction, all indoor general visitors must now be fully vaccinated against COVID, unless medically exempt or visiting a resident receiving end of life care. This means an individual must have received a full series of a COVID-19 vaccine (e.g. both doses of a two-dose vaccine series) authorized by Health Canada and their final dose was at least 14 days ago.

In addition, as of December 17, our Homes are required to implement the following measures:

- Unless medically exempt or caring for their loved one in a palliative situation, designated family caregivers are required to be fully vaccinated by Feb 21, 2022 and must receive their first dose by Dec 20, 2021.
- Limiting indoor visits to a max of two people per resident at a time (including family caregivers). For outdoor visits (where possible), a max of four people may visit a resident at a time (including family caregivers).
- Residents must be fully vaccinated to leave the Home for short-term social absences. When they return to the home, they will need to be actively screened and complete a series of COVID tests over a seven-day period. All residents can continue to leave the Home for essential purposes, such as medical appointments.
- Regardless of vaccination status, residents are unable to leave the Home for overnight social absences.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's support and ongoing vigilance as we continue to follow directives and public health guidance. We're grateful for the extra layer of protection provided by vaccinations, and with transmission high in communities across Ontario, receiving your booster shot when eligible can help keep yourself and those around you safe.

We understand that while necessary, these enhanced measures may be disappointing, especially during the holiday season, and our teams are dedicated to keeping spirits high with many creative and engaging events. We are also always happy to support virtual visits, which can be booked online or by calling the Home's Director of Programs.

As visits are planned over the coming weeks, we ask that you please call your specific peopleCare Home in advance with any questions. Please also visit our [Family Caregiver Programs](#) webpage for more information on visiting, absences and testing requirements.