

# Belmont HOUSE

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Visiting During COVID-19 Pandemic		
<b>VOLUME:</b>	V2- Resident Care	<b>ORIGINAL DATE:</b>	June 2020
<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>	Nursing Management	<b>REVISED DATE:</b>	June 2022
<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	Director of Care	<b>PAGE:</b> Page 1 of 3	
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>			

**This policy refers to Residents in Long Term Care and Tenants in the Retirement Home**

## **PURPOSE:**

- To promote the safety of residents, tenants and staff
- To provide emotional well-being for residents and tenants
- To ensure residents and tenants receive visitors in compliance with Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Directives and the Retirement Home Regulatory Directives

## **POLICY:**

Belmont House is committed to taking the necessary precautions to prevent COVID-19 from entering the home. This policy applies to all visitors coming into the home.

## **PROCEDURE:**

### **Outdoor Visits:**

1. Visitor will contact front desk to arrange a visit, front desk will notify recreation.
2. Visitors must undergo active screening when they arrive. Visitors arriving for outdoor visits are not allowed beyond entry points/areas of the home
3. Recreation will accompany resident to designated area for the visit.
4. Visitors will proceed to designated area to meet with their loved one for a 60 min visits.
5. Masks are not required for outdoor visits but still recommended as an added layer of protection when in close proximity to others.
6. If a visitor does not adhere to the policy during the visit, the visit will be terminated, and visits will be discontinued.
7. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak visits will be discontinued immediately

Policy Title:	Visiting During COVID-19 Pandemic
---------------	-----------------------------------

### **Indoor Visits:**

1. Visitors will contact front desk to arrange a visit, front desk will schedule visit and notify recreation.
2. Visitors MUST undergo active screening when they arrive.
3. Fully vaccinated visitors MUST show proof of COVID-19 vaccination status. 3 doses required if they would like to visit on the nursing unit. If they refuse to show COVID-19 vaccination status, they will be considered unvaccinated.
4. Visitors that have received 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine can visit a resident on the main floor. All visitors entering the home MUST undergo rapid antigen testing with a negative result before being allowed entry into the home. The visitor/s will be informed of protocol to keep face covering on at all times, and ensure they adhere to the physical distancing rules. The home will provide a surgical mask (and other PPE if applicable) that must be worn during the duration of the visits.
5. Recreation staff will escort visitor (up to 4 visitors per visit) to designated area for visits of up to 60min.
6. Visitors will be permitted on the unit nursing unit if resident is palliative or bedridden regardless of vaccination status.
7. If visitor does not adhere to the policy or removes their PPE during the visit the visit will be terminated, and visits will be discontinued.
8. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak visits will be discontinued immediately.

### **Short Stay Absences:**

Residents may leave the home for health care-related, social, or other reasons. A short stay absence does not include an overnight stay.

1. Residents will be actively screened when they return including a temperature check
2. LTC- A rapid antigen test and PCR test is required 5 days after social absence.
3. Retirement- rapid antigen test required twice a week
4. 10-day isolation is not required following a short stay absence.

### **Temporary Absences:**

Residents may leave the home for personal reasons for an overnight stay.

1. A resident absence form will be completed by nursing staff to determine the purpose of the absence, risk involved and for contact tracing purposes.
2. Residents will:
  - Undergo active screening for symptoms and exposure history required on return.
  - LTC- rapid antigen test and PCR test on day 5 following absence

Policy Title:	Visiting During COVID-19 Pandemic
---------------	-----------------------------------

- Retirement- rapid antigen test required twice a week

**Essential Caregivers:**

1. Essential caregivers are those individuals that provide care services to a resident.
2. Essential caregivers may visit residents that have been deemed palliative, bedridden or have had a significant change in condition.
3. The care team must approve all essential caregivers. 4 essential caregivers permitted per resident at a time.
4. The home will provide education to essential caregiver on putting on and taking off PPE and how to handwash.
5. Essential caregivers MUST receive 3 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and must undergo rapid antigen testing with a negative result before being allowed entry into the home. The home will provide a surgical mask (and other PPE if applicable) that must be worn during the duration of the visits. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis ie, palliative/bedridden resident.

**References:**

COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario,  
<https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ltc/covid19.aspx>

Retirement Home Regulatory Authority in Ontario.

<https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ltc/covid19.aspx>

**Cross Reference:**

Respiratory Outbreak	Infection Control
----------------------	-------------------