

## Requirements and Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes

### Effective December 17<sup>th</sup> (except where otherwise specified)

The requirements below are for Long-Term Care Homes that are not in an outbreak. For requirements for homes in an outbreak, please refer to COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures document.

Area	Summary Requirements
Surveillance Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test all fully vaccinated staff, students, volunteers, and caregivers, at minimum, 2 times per week, in addition to existing testing requirements for those not fully vaccinated.</li> <li>• General visitors / support workers, regardless of vaccination status, require proof of negative test upon entry, taken the day of the visit, or on a previous day. Testing is also required for outdoor visits.</li> <li>• Testing not required for infants under one year of age.</li> <li>• Individuals who show proof of a confirmed COVID-19 infection in the past 30 days should not be re-tested except with the onset of symptoms or if they've travelled outside of Canada in the 14 days prior to entering a home*.</li> </ul>
Vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Effective December 15 at 7pm:</b> Restrict general visitors who are not fully vaccinated from entering the long-term care home.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Outdoor visits still permitted (where feasible) for unvaccinated individuals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Effective December 20:</b> To gain entry to the home, caregivers must show proof of their first dose as of December 20<sup>th</sup> and by February 21, 2022 to show proof of all required doses. **Caregivers designated after December 14<sup>th</sup> are required to be fully vaccinated to gain entry to the home.</li> </ul>
Visitors (general visitors and caregivers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Outdoor</i> visits (where feasible):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Up to four people per resident at a time (includes caregivers).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Indoor</i> visits:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Up to two people per resident at a time (includes caregivers).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Residents can designate a maximum of two caregivers (unless more than two caregivers were already designated prior to December 14<sup>th</sup>).</li> </ul>
Activities (communal dining, social activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohorting of residents for high-risk activities (singing, dancing etc.) and dining.</li> <li>• Large group social activities are discouraged.</li> <li>• Performances/entertainers permitted in adherence to visitor requirements regarding testing and vaccination.</li> </ul>
Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase frequency of audits to every two weeks to ensure adequate supply and preparation.</li> <li>• Homes are reminded of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Infection Prevention and Control for Long-Term Care Homes: Summary of Key Principles and Best Practices</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">COVID-19: Infection Prevention and Control Checklist for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Area	Summary Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems in Buildings and COVID-19</u></li> <li>• Reinforce staff cohorting, including during breaks, and use virtual staff meetings where possible.</li> </ul>
Absences/ Admissions/ Transfers	<p>Day absences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day absences for social purposes are permitted for fully vaccinated residents <b>only</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Overnight absences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overnight absences for social purposes are being suspended, regardless of vaccination status. Residents who wish to leave the home overnight for social purposes will need to follow the appropriate discharge process, as required in section 147.1 of O.Reg.79/10 (General) under the <i>Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007</i> as well as the re-admission protocol when they return at a later date.</li> <li>• Essential, medical and compassionate and palliative absences are still permitted, regardless of vaccination status.</li> </ul> <p>Requirements upon return/admission/transfer to home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day absences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Actively screen residents upon return;</li> <li>○ Rapid test <u>and</u> PCR test on day 3 following absence, followed by a PCR test on day 7. No isolation is required unless positive result is received.</li> <li>○ If known exposure to a case, PCR test on day 1 and day 7 and isolate until a negative result is confirmed from day 7.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For all return/admissions/transfers from another healthcare facility that is not in an outbreak: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If asymptomatic and fully vaccinated and no known exposure to a case, do PCR test prior to admission or on arrival at the LTCH, with isolation until a negative test result is received.</li> <li>○ Do enhanced symptom screening on admission and twice daily for 10 days following the return/admission/transfer.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For all other return/admissions/transfers to the home (not including day absences): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A PCR test is required prior to admission or on day 1, <b>and</b> on day 7. Isolation is required until a negative result is confirmed from day 7 (the test prior to admission is only valid the day of, or from the previous day).</li> <li>○ Do enhanced symptom screening on admission and twice daily for 10 days following the return/admission/transfer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homes are reminded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All individuals must be screened prior to entry into the home.</li> <li>○ Once daily symptom screening is required for residents in the home unless requirements related to return/admissions/transfers apply.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Area	Summary Requirements
Preparedness Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homes should review and update their fall preparedness planning checklists (or other documents) to ensure current.</li> </ul>

\* Testing can also be considered if there is exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19, if there is a COVID-19 outbreak in the home, or at the direction of the local public health unit.

\*\*Exception for those visiting residents receiving end of life care and those with valid proof of medical exemption – they are to be restricted to the residents’ rooms. Infants under the age of 1 are also permitted.

Source Documents: [Directive #3, Directive #5 COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario](#) [The Minister’s Directive on Long-Term Care COVID-19 Immunization Policy](#) [Minister of Long-Term Care’s Directive COVID-19: Long-term care home surveillance testing and access to homes](#)