



How you want to be treated.

Memorandum

To Residents, Families and Friends

From Bhavan Manhas, Program Director, Long-term Care and Assisted Living

Date October 13, 2021

Re. **UPDATE FOR VISITOR VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LONG-TERM CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING**

On October 5, 2021, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and Minister Adrian Dix announced that all visitors (both essential and social visitors) to Long-term Care and Assisted Living sites must be fully immunized* against COVID-19, excluding children under 12 years or those with an approved medical exemption. Proof of Vaccination (e.g. BC Vaccine Card or equivalent) is required prior to entering or passing through a care home.

Effective October 12, 2021

All visitors to long-term care and assisted-living facilities are required to have received a single dose of vaccine to be able to enter a facility (excluding children under 12 years or those with an approved medical exemption). Partially immunized visitors are required to undergo rapid testing at point of entry to the facility.

Effective October 26, 2021

All visitors to long-term care, assisted-living and acute-care facilities must demonstrate they are fully immunized to enter a facility.

- Visitors are required to show proof of vaccination prior to entry, including just to pass through the facility to access an outdoor space. Proof of vaccination is considered to be an electronic or a printed copy proof; issued by the government in the form of a QR code, accessible [here](#). Includes the individual's name and issued for the purpose of showing proof of vaccination.
- Visitations for non-vaccinated visitors can occur outside the facility and masks are required at all times
- Medical masks are required by all in facilities regardless of vaccination status

Exceptions related to compassionate care such as end-of-life, will be considered on an individual case basis. Those who require the exceptions, should contact the facility care director.

Please [click here](#) for more information on mandatory visitor vaccination in long-term care and seniors' assisted living.

Sites: St. Paul's Hospital | Holy Family Hospital | Mount Saint Joseph Hospital | Youville Residence | St. John Hospice
St. Vincent's: Brock Fahmi, Langara, Honoria Conway - Heather | Crosstown Clinic

Community Dialysis Clinics: Sechelt | Richmond | Powell River | Squamish | North Shore | Vancouver | East Vancouver

Over the coming days, our PHC care homes leaders will be working with their teams to implement this Ministry of Health directive. We recognize that this change may generate some questions or requests for more information. We are expecting the Ministry of Health to release an additional Frequently Asked Question document to further support implementation of this directive. We will keep you apprised as we receive any additional information. We greatly appreciate your patience and support as we strive to keep our residents safe.

Visiting Appeal Process:

In line with the Ministry of Health LTC visiting policy and the Public Health Order, our visitor appeal process remains unchanged.

Should you have a concern regarding a decision relating to visitor status, we encourage you:

- To speak with a clinical care team member or clinical care team leadership at the time of concern. If you are not satisfied with the response, our Resident Care Manager will be involved, providing you a written decision including the rationale.
- In the event you are not satisfied with the decision by the care home, you are encouraged to contact Patient Care quality Office (PCQO) at 604-806-8284 or email them at jsilver@providencehealth.bc.ca to consider re-consideration.
- In the event you are not satisfied with the response on behalf of PHC, the issue may be escalated to the Provincial Health Officer via PCQO or independently by mail to: Hlth.visitorappeal@gov.bc.ca.

****Fully Immunized is defined as seven days after receiving the full series of a World Health Organization (WHO) approved COVID-19 vaccine or a combination of approved WHO Vaccines.***

Learn more:

- To register to be immunized or to learn about getting your second dose, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html>
- Or <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/dose-2>
- To learn about BC's Restart plan, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid19/info/restart>
- For the updated guidance for long-term care and seniors' assisted living facilities, visit [BC Centre for Disease Control's website](#).
- Residents of our long-term care facilities and their families can find [more information here](#).