



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 22, 2021

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

Visiting your loved ones in Long-term Care and Assisted Living over the last 19 months has come with changing guidance, frustrations and challenges. On behalf of the PHC LTC care homes, I want to thank you for your continued patience and commitment to working with us during these difficult times to ensure the safety of all residents while maximizing their quality of daily life.

Update to Rapid Testing requirement

In addition to our communication on **October 13, 2021** regarding visitation, we want to provide you with an additional update provided by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer (PHO). As it relates to visitors who are not yet fully immunized, the MoH and PHO have revised previous guidelines and **removed** the requirement for rapid testing. If you have visited in the last few days, we thank you for respectfully complying with this added measure. We will be removing this practice effective immediately.

Reminder regarding proof of vaccination

If you are unable to provide proof of full immunization to COVID-19, you can visit with a resident outside of the facility provided you do not enter or pass through the care home or visit in spaces occupied by other residents. If you visit outdoors, you are required to wear a mask at all times. Because our care homes have limited outdoor spaces, we ask you speak with the care home leader before your visit to see if any suitable spaces are available.

As a reminder, see below a summary of the MoH and PHO guidance for visiting in LTC and Seniors Assisted living:

Effective October 12, 2021:

- Visitors are required to show proof of vaccination prior to entry, including if only to pass through the facility to access an outdoor space;
- Visitors who do not demonstrate that they are either partially or fully vaccinated will not be able to enter a facility (excluding young children under the age of vaccine eligibility or those with an approved medical exemption);
- Partially or unvaccinated visitors must adhere to all required preventative measures including wearing a medical mask for the duration of the visit. Please note that

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

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

unvaccinated visitors will only be able to visit outdoors with their loved ones, as described above.

Effective **October 26, 2021:**

- Visitors must demonstrate they are fully vaccinated to enter a facility (excluding young children under the age of vaccine eligibility or those with an approved medical exemption).

Exceptions regarding vaccination status in circumstances related to compassionate care such as end-of-life visits will be considered on an individual basis for partially or unvaccinated individuals. Additional information regarding visitation, including proof of vaccination requirements, in long-term care and seniors' assisted living facilities can be found through the [BC Centre for Disease Control – Long-Term Care and Assisted Living](#).

Thank you for your continued patience with the changing guidance. As we receive additional information, we will be sure to keep you apprised.

****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.***