

# COVID-19 Vaccine Update

## Clarification: Vaccination for LTC and AL Social Visitors

Date: Mar. 31, 2021  
To: Directors of Care/Managers, staff, essential visitors and designated (social) visitors at Long-Term Care facilities and Assisted Living sites  
From: Jo-Ann Tait, Executive Director, Regional Long-Term Care, Assisted Living and Supported Housing  
Cc: Dr. Patricia Daly, Vice-President, Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer

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Dear colleagues,

With the new provincial visitation guidelines coming into effect on April 1, 2021, as you are aware, we will be shifting away from a single designated visitor per resident to welcome more social visitation for the residents living in Long-Term Care and in Seniors Assisted Living.

We had previously circulated information (March 9th Memo) about Long-Term Care and Seniors Assisted Living designated social visitor vaccination eligibility and process for booking appointments.

This process will be changing when the new policy comes into effect on April 1, 2021.

Social visitors will be eligible for their vaccination as part of their age based cohort in the coming weeks and months. The recent provincial Q&A reflects the vaccination efforts for residents, staff and essential visitors at this time.

### **Provincial Q&A page 8 - Will you be immunizing social visitors?**

- At this time the focus is on immunizing residents, staff and essential visitors, which we know adds a layer of protection for those in the facility, especially residents who cannot be immunized for medical reasons.
- And to further protect residents, staff and visitors, strict infection prevention and control precautions remain in place in LTC and seniors' AL facilities. Social visitors are required to book their visits in advance, be screened before entry, wear a medical mask, practice hand hygiene, cough/sneeze into their elbows and maintain their physical distance from other visitors and staff.
- The Province is also in phase 2 of BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan, which means that more members of the community, especially high-risk populations, have received at least one dose of the vaccine or will soon.

We appreciate your cooperation, patience and understanding as we roll out this immunization campaign of an unprecedented scale. Please e-mail [LTCEOC@vch.ca](mailto:LTCEOC@vch.ca) if you have any further questions.