

July 2, 2020

INFORMATION BULLETIN: LONG TERM CARE AND COVID-19

On June 30, Health Minister Adrian Dix and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced plans to ease restrictions on visiting long-term care facilities in BC. (You can read the announcement [here](#).)

The Province has developed updated guidelines to support visits between family members and residents of long-term care homes and seniors' assisted living facilities. Under these new guidelines, residents will be able to visit with one family member or friend as space permits.

We know everyone is eager to see their loved ones, but we need time to make the adjustments necessary to ensure the safety of everyone. Once we have developed a plan that meets provincial and Vancouver Coastal requirements, we will let you know of the next steps and the process for visits at each site. Current visitation restrictions will remain in place until that time.

We understand how difficult it has been for our residents and their loved ones to not see each other in person during this stressful time. Each Providence home will find a way to adopt the new guidelines. As a result, there may be differences to visitation rules across our five long-term care homes and assisted living community due to staff resources, infrastructure, and the ability to physically distance at each site. Depending on the home, added safety measures could include:

- Scheduling visits in advance
- Limiting the number of visitors at the home at one time
- Limiting the length of visits
- Visiting in a designated area
- Screening visitors for symptoms
- Mandatory mask use and hand hygiene
- And other measures, as determined by each home

Social visits will only be allowed if there is no active COVID-19 outbreak at the care home/residence.

Thank you for your continued patience as we carefully consider how to put in place plans that respect the updated guidelines. In the meantime, we continue to help families with creative ways to communicate virtually with their loved ones, including via Skype or FaceTime on a mobile phone. Please connect directly with your contact at the home where your family lives for more ideas.

Check here for Providence updates: <http://www.providencehealthcare.org/ltc-covid19>