

1. POLICY

This program is designed to provide resident visits including general visitors and essential visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy includes the following procedures for all visitors:

- COVID-19 screening
- Vaccine requirements
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements
- Visitation restrictions

This policy was developed with guidance from Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Public Health (KFL&A PH).

This policy may change frequently due to numerous changes in COVID-19 limitations and restrictions set out by Fairmount Home (Home).

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all visitors entering the Home that are not a student, volunteer or employee of Fairmount Home or entering the Home for purposes not related to employment.

3. OBJECTIVE

To support long-term care residents, the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) has provided the following principles to guide the gradual, staged return to resident visits:

Safety: Any approach to visiting must balance the health and safety needs of residents, staff, and visitors, and ensure risks are mitigated

Emotional Well-being: Allowing visitors is intended to support the emotional well-being of residents by reducing any potential negative impacts related to social isolation

Equitable Access: All residents must be given equitable access to receive visitors, consistent with their preferences and within reasonable restrictions that safeguard residents

Flexibility: The physical/infrastructure characteristics of the Home, its staff availability, whether the Home is in an outbreak, and the current status of the Home with respect to personal protective equipment (PPE) are all variables to take into account when setting the Home's policies

Equality: Residents, their substitute decision-makers and/or designated caregivers have the right to choose their visitors.

DEFINITIONS

Essential visitor: a person performing essential support services (i.e., food delivery, inspector, maintenance, or health care service) or a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident. Essential visitors include:

- a) Support Worker: performs essential services for the Home or for a resident at the Home. (i.e., physician, nurse practitioner, maintenance worker)

- b) Essential Caregiver: designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident.
 - i. Essential caregivers must be at least 16 years of age

Please note: Essential caregivers are the only type of visitor allowed when a resident is self-isolating or symptomatic or when the Home is experiencing an outbreak, or as directed by KFL&A Public Health.

General Visitor: a person who is not an essential caregiver and is visiting to provide non-essential services and/or for social reasons

4. PROCEDURE

4.1. Before Visiting

- All visitors are expected to review this policy monthly and/or before each visit.
- All visitors must comply with the Home's infection prevention and control (IPAC) protocols, including proper use of face coverings or surgical/respiratory masks and eye protection.
- Visitors under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Both essential caregivers and general visitors are required to follow the Home's procedures and may be subject to limitations and restrictions during indoor visits.
- Homemade, restaurant and grocery store food/drink brought by visitors for residents are permitted. Please refer to IP&C-31 Activity Room Refrigerator Policy if the use of the refrigerator is required.
- Please note that essential caregivers are not subject to the same restrictions and limitations as general visitors.

4.2. Screening

- All visitors are required to complete passive screening before entering the Home for indoor visits. Those who do not pass are not permitted to visit.

4.3. Vaccination requirements & proof of vaccination

- Essential visitors and general visitors are not required to show proof of vaccination prior to entry into the Home.

4.4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- It is recommended for all visitors to wear a mask during their visit; however, it is not required.
- All PPE (i.e., masks, gloves, gowns, and eye protection) will be provided by the Home, if required, for indoor visits only.

- All visitors must wear the required PPE on the designated home areas, if required. This includes the use of masks, eye protection, in addition to gloves and gowns as required. All PPE will be provided by the Home.
- Prior to an essential caregiver visiting a resident for the first time, the Home will provide training to the essential caregiver addressing how to safely provide direct care, including putting on and removing appropriate PPE, and hand hygiene. Below is a list of PPE guidance that may be helpful:
 - Document - Recommended Steps: Putting on PPE:
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps>
 - Video: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Videos/I/2021/IPAC-FullPPE-On>
 - Video: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Videos/I/2021/IPAC-FullPPE-Off>
 - Video: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Videos/I/2021/IPAC-Handwash>
- If a visitor fails to comply with PPE requirements, they may be temporarily suspended from visiting with residents.

4.5. Restrictions

- If a resident is self-isolating or symptomatic and/or when the Home is in an outbreak, essential caregivers may visit.
In addition:
 - General visitors are not permitted to visit any COVID- 19 positive residents and/or any home area declared in suspected/ confirmed outbreak.
- For other possible restrictions (i.e., dining with a resident, participating in activities, etc.), please contact the Assistant Director of Care – Infection Prevention and Control (Ext. 516).

4.6. Types of Visits

- **Indoor Visits**
 - Take place inside the Home
 - Both essential caregivers and general visitors are required to follow the Home's procedures and may be subject to limitations and restrictions during indoor visits.
- **Outdoor visits**
 - To ensure the health and safety of our residents, outdoor visits may be restricted due to weather conditions.
- **Video visits**
 - Must be prearranged with the Volunteer Coordinator (Ext. 581)



Policy & Procedure Manual

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Policy: Essential Visitors & General Visitors During COVID-19

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Approved:

Effective: July 1, 2021

5. Policies Referred

Index Number	Policy Title	Hyperlink
IP&C-31	Activity Room Refrigerator Policy	Signed Policies\IP&C-31 Activity Room Refrigerators.pdf

Any violations of these rules could be basis for discontinuation of your visit. In cases where the rules are violated, the resident may need to be isolated for a minimum of 10 days and may be required to undergo testing for COVID-19. We understand that visiting your loved one is important to you. We don't anticipate violations will occur but must still make everyone aware.

If you have any questions regarding your visit with a resident or the directions and limitations set out in this policy, please contact our Assistant Director of Care - Infection Prevention & Control at Ext. 516.