

June 8, 2021

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**  
**Update to Directive #3 Outdoor Visits**  
**Effective June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Dear Grandview Lodge Residents, Staff, Families and Friends,

As a next step, the ministry has consulted with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to implement the following changes to Directive #3 and the MLTC Guidance Document and Visitor Policy. These changes will be effective as of June 9, 2021:

**What is changing?**

- Social and temporary absences for those residents who are fully immunized will now be permitted. Grandview Lodge will provide a medical mask to the resident and remind them to follow public health measures, such as physical distancing and hand hygiene, while they are away from the home.
- Where a resident has mobility limitations or health conditions (i.e. factors unrelated to weather) that make participating in outdoor visits highly unlikely or impossible, a maximum of 1 general visitor per resident may visit indoors at a time. A maximum of 1 caregiver may also be present during the visit.
- Where both the resident and visitors are fully immunized close physical contact, including handholding, can now take place safely. It continues to be important that residents and visitors continue to adhere to public health measures in the home, including good hand hygiene and appropriate masking.
- Essential Caregivers and general visitors who are **fully immunized** (and therefore able to have close physical contact with the resident) are not required to wear eye protection whether visiting indoors or outdoors.

**General Visitor Guidelines:**

- General Visits will take place in the outdoor garden area of the resident's home area as a means to control the flow of traffic and maintain social distancing for residents who go outside on their own and/or during outdoor programs. Essential Caregiver outdoor use remains available in Centennial Gardens as these visits are not scheduled or monitored and could result in overcrowding of the smaller home area gardens.
- Maximum of two general visitors at a time per resident in addition to essential caregiver(s). Children under the age of two years do not count toward the general visitor maximum.
- Recognizing that outdoor visits may not be possible for all residents, effective June 9, 2021, residents with mobility limitations or health conditions (i.e. factors unrelated to weather) that make an outdoor visit highly unlikely or impossible, may have one general visitor visit indoors at a time. One essential caregiver may also be present during these visits. **These visits will be decided by the DON/ADON on each home area, if appropriate. These visits will only occur in the resident's room.**
- General visitors need to be actively screened upon arrival. **If an indoor visit has been deemed appropriate by the Director of Nursing, the general visitor will complete a rapid antigen test (indoor visit only).** Outdoor visits do not require a rapid antigen test.
- Outdoor visits will be cancelled during inclement weather.
- General visitors are not permitted to visit residents indoors or outdoors if the entire home is in outbreak or the resident is symptomatic or isolating under Droplet and Contact precautions.

**Procedure for booking and attending an outdoor visit**

In an effort to ensure all residents who choose to have an outdoor visit have an opportunity to do so and in order to ensure the guidelines for social distancing are followed, outdoor visits must be scheduled. Visits will be scheduled on a first call first scheduled basis and will be available during designated time frames. We will endeavour to ensure everyone who wishes to visit has an opportunity and for some of our larger families this

may require a spacing out of your visits to ensure other residents have an opportunity. Please provide as much notice as possible, a minimum of 24-hours notice is encouraged.

- ✓ Book your visit using the contact numbers below applicable to your resident.
- ✓ Self screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to attending your visit and cancel the visit if you are not feeling well or exhibiting symptoms. You will also be actively screened at the door prior to entering.
- ✓ After passing the screening tool obtain and apply the designated general visitor badge and proceed to the nursing station on your resident's home area. **Proof of vaccination will be required.** If proof is not provided you will be considered to be unvaccinated and given an orange badge. Those that have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past and are not vaccinated will be considered unvaccinated and be given an orange badge.

**Green** General Visitor Badge – vaccinated

**Orange** General Visitor Badge – unvaccinated or have not provided proof of vaccination

- ✓ Any staff member may escort you to the designated visitation space and bring your resident to you. At this time general visitors are not permitted to transport their resident or visit in the indoor spaces of the home.
- ✓ Visits are scheduled for 30-minutes, please be respectful of the time so as not to interrupt the scheduled visits of others.
- ✓ Staff will retrieve residents and return them to their preferred destination, visitors will exit the home through the front doors.
- ✓ Please follow all infection prevention and control practices and sanitize your hands before and after your visit. As a reminder, masking is required at all times and as such visitors should not bring anything to eat or drink to the visit with them.
- ✓ General visitors & essential caregivers, who are **fully immunized** (and therefore able to have close physical contact with the resident) are **not required to wear eye protection** whether visiting indoors or outdoors.

Visits are scheduled every half hour during the following timeframes:

Monday thru Friday – 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday – 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

### **Booking Contacts**

Hillview: Nicole Leeney x 2303 or Registered Staff x 2271

Bridgeview: Gayle McDougall x 2302 or Registered Staff x 2272

Marshview: Megan Herkimer x 2301 or Registered Staff x 2269

Creekview: Bev Little x 2300 or Registered Staff x 2270

### **Short Stay Absence Guidelines**

- **Fully immunized** residents who are capable to independently leave the home are permitted to do so. The resident will be provided with a mask to wear and must be reminded of processes to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 while off Grandview Lodge property such as proper hand hygiene, physical distancing and proper mask wear.
- A fully immunized resident may leave Grandview Lodge property for a short stay visit with family (general visitor or essential caregiver). The resident will be provided with a mask to wear and must be reminded of processes to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 while off Grandview Lodge property such as proper hand hygiene, physical distancing and proper mask wear. If the resident is unable, the obligation is on the family to ensure proper measures are followed. Anyone in contact with the resident should wear a mask as well.
- Resident and/or family member must sign out upon leaving the home area. Sign out book is located at each home area nurses station.
- Returning residents must be actively screened for symptoms and exposure history for COVID-19 before they are allowed to enter GVL. Any resident returning to GVL following an absence who fails active screening will be permitted entry and will be required to isolate in their room under Droplet and Contact Precautions and tested for COVID-19 as per the COVID-19: Provincial Testing Requirements.

### **Procedure for short stay absence:**

Visit must be scheduled 24-hours in advance to ensure resident is prepared for short stay absence. Please call the home area nursing station to book.

- ✓ Enter GVL through front doors.
- ✓ Sanitize hands & apply surgical mask.
- ✓ Screener will call the home area and a staff member will assist with bringing the resident out for the short stay absence. Essential caregivers may enter the home area to bring the resident out for the short stay absence after proper screening has taken place.
- ✓ Screener will assist the resident with the completion of the short stay absence screening questionnaire.
- ✓ Exit the building for the day/designated timeframe and begin your visit ensuring full compliance with the use of a surgical mask, hand hygiene, physical distancing and current public health guidelines.
- ✓ All residents must be screened upon returning to the home.
- ✓ Screener will assist resident back to their home area or call the home area for assistance. Any resident returning to GVL following an absence who fails active screening will be permitted entry and will be required to isolate in their room under Droplet and Contact Precautions and tested for COVID-19 as per the COVID-19 Provincial Testing Requirements and until cleared by the Public Health Unit

We ask that the short absences occur during the following time periods when screener staff are scheduled:

Monday thru Friday – 8:30 am – 8:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday – 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

If this request is not possible and the resident returns after hours they will need to be screened in by the home area. Please note that the front doors may be locked and you will need to use the call bell located on the left to ring for assistance to reenter the home.

### **Temporary Absence Guidelines**

As of June 9, 2021, residents who are **fully immunized** may leave the home for temporary absences, which includes absences that involve two or more days and one or more night for non-medical reasons. As per Directive 3, residents who leave the home for an overnight absence are required to have a laboratory-based PCR COVID-19 test **upon return** and **remain in isolation** on Droplet and Contact precautions while their test result is pending.

### **Process**

- ✓ Temporary absences must be scheduled 1 week in advance to ensure resident supplies, medications and arrangements are in place for duration of absence.
- ✓ Call Jelte Schaafsma, Director of Nursing to schedule and make arrangements for the temporary absence at (905) 774-7547 x 2234
- ✓ Arrangements will be made at that time for screening process, transfer of accountability, including supplies and medications, as well as information related to Infection Prevention and Control practices.

As with every revision to the directives during this ever evolving situation, this process is subject to change as directions change and as we reevaluate our procedures and look for improvements in our processes.

**The best way to protect against transmission and infection is through vaccination.** We strongly **encourage all visitors** to do their part in protecting our residents and schedule your vaccination appointment. If you have any questions regarding any of these new procedures please contact anyone from the leadership team.

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Grandview Lodge

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(905) 774-7547 ext. 2233