



# Grandview Lodge

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## Important Notice

### Temporary Enhanced Measures in LTC Homes

December 15, 2021

The Ministry of Long-Term Care is implementing temporary enhanced measures in light of the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

These temporary enhanced and responsive measures are necessary to provide optimal safety and support to residents while balancing the mental and emotional well-being of Residents and their families, and to safeguard the staff who are critical to the care of residents.

Enhanced measures include:

- Enhanced surveillance testing for all staff and anyone entering the home, regardless of vaccination status,
- Vaccination requirements for general visitors and caregivers;
  - New visitor limits
  - Day absences limited to residents who are fully vaccinated
- Suspended overnight absences for social purposes,
- Cohorting for some higher-risk activities singing and dancing, in addition to dining,
- Large group activities discouraged.

In addition to the enhanced measures, all Residents, staff and caregivers are strongly urged to receive a booster / third dose as they become eligible, as the latest available evidence shows that three doses of vaccine are more effective against the Omicron variant than two doses.

Everyone is reminded of the importance of remaining vigilant with public health measures, such as masking and social distancing, both in the home and in the community.

Grandview Lodge and the Haldimand and Norfolk Public Health Unit are working together to organize a vaccination clinic for Residents, staff and caregivers to receive first, second and third doses. Grandview Lodge will send out dates and details once confirmed.



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## Requirements and Guidance for Long-Term Care Homes Effective December 17<sup>th</sup> (except where otherwise specified)

Area	Summary Requirements
Vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Effective December 15 at 7pm:</b> Restrict general visitors who are not fully vaccinated from entering the long-term care home.</li> <li>• <b>Outdoor visits still permitted (where feasible) for unvaccinated individuals.</b> Unvaccinated visitors are required to <b>call the home area to book a time for the outdoor visit</b> so that staff can ensure the resident is dressed appropriately and is brought out to meet their loved one.</li> <li>• <b>Effective December 20:</b> To gain entry to the home, caregivers must show proof of their first dose as of December 20<sup>th</sup> and by February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to show proof of all required doses. <b>**Caregivers designated after December 14<sup>th</sup> are required to be fully vaccinated to gain entry to the home.</b></li> </ul>
Surveillance Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test all fully vaccinated staff, students, volunteers, and caregivers, at minimum, 2 times per week, in addition to existing testing requirements for those not fully vaccinated.</li> <li>• General visitors / support workers, regardless of vaccination status, require proof of negative test upon entry, taken the day of the visit, or on a previous day. Testing is also required for outdoor visits.</li> <li>• Testing not required for infants under one year of age.</li> <li>• Individuals who show proof of a confirmed COVID-19 infection in the past 30 days should not be re-tested except with the onset of symptoms or if they've travelled outside of Canada in the 14 days prior to entering a home.</li> </ul>
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All individuals must be screened prior to entry into the home.</li> <li>• Once daily symptom screening is required for residents in the home unless requirements related to return/admissions/transfers apply.</li> </ul>
Visitors (general visitors and caregivers)	<p>Outdoor visits (where feasible):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to four people per resident at a time (includes caregivers).</li> </ul> <p>Indoor visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to two people per resident at a time (includes caregivers).</li> <li>• Residents can designate a maximum of two caregivers (unless more than two caregivers were already designated prior to December 14).</li> </ul>



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<p>Absences/ Admissions/ Transfers</p>	<p><b>Day absences</b> Day absences for social purposes are permitted for fully vaccinated residents only.</p> <p><b>Overnight absences</b> Overnight absences for social purposes are being suspended, regardless of vaccination status. Residents who wish to leave the home overnight for social purposes will need to follow the appropriate discharge process, as required in section 147.1 of O.Reg.79/10 (General) under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 as well as the re-admission protocol when they return at a later date.</p> <p>Essential, medical and compassionate and palliative absences are still permitted, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p><b>Requirements upon return/admission/transfer to home</b> Day absences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively screen residents upon return;</li> <li>• Rapid test and PCR test on day 3 following absence, followed by a PCR test on day 7. No isolation is required unless positive result is received.</li> <li>• <b>If known exposure to a case</b>, PCR test on day 1 and day 7 and isolate until a negative result is confirmed from day 7.</li> </ul> <p>For all return/admissions/transfers from another healthcare facility that is not in an outbreak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If asymptomatic and fully vaccinated and no known exposure to a case, do PCR test prior to admission or on arrival at the LTCH, with isolation until a negative test result is received.</li> <li>• Do enhanced symptom screening on admission and twice daily for 10 days following the return/admission/transfer.</li> </ul> <p>For all other return/admissions/transfers to the home (not including day absences):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A PCR test is required prior to admission or on day 1, and on day 7. Isolation is required until a negative result is confirmed from day 7 (the test prior to admission is only valid the day of, or from the previous day).</li> <li>• Do enhanced symptom screening on admission and twice daily for 10 days following the return/admission/transfer</li> </ul>
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<p>Activities (communal dining, social activities)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohorting of residents for high-risk activities (singing, dancing etc.) and dining.</li> <li>• Large group social activities are discouraged.</li> <li>• Performances/entertainers permitted in adherence to visitor requirements regarding testing and vaccination.</li> </ul> <p>*The Hillview and Bridgeview Christmas Gala on December 16, 2021 is going forward as planned.</p>
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## Questions & Answers

### 1. Why restrict unvaccinated caregivers from entering the home?

**Answer:** Caregivers are essential to the well-being of residents. It is why the ministry has given lead-time for caregivers to receive their first dose by December 20<sup>th</sup> and all required doses by February 21, 2022. Post February 21<sup>st</sup>, unvaccinated caregivers would only be able to enter the home to visit residents receiving end-of-life care or if they have a valid medical exemption. In these instances they would be limited to the resident's room. During the transition period leading to the February 21<sup>st</sup> deadline, caregivers who are not fully vaccinated would also be limited to the resident's room, as well as being subject to the increased testing requirements and ongoing PPE requirements.

### 2. Why restrict residents from seeing their unvaccinated grandchildren?

**Answer:** As Omicron continues to accelerate, it is the Ministry's top priority to keep COVID-19 out of homes. Children who are not fully vaccinated pose a high risk of the virus entering the home. Children may be exposed to viruses in school, daycare and other settings. In addition, COVID-19 cases among children aged 5-11 have been showing the highest growth of new cases in recent weeks. Infants under the age of one are not considered visitors and can enter the home (testing and vaccination requirements do not apply to them). Fully vaccinated visitors, including children aged 5-11 are permitted into the home.

### 3. What proof of vaccination are homes allowed to accept?

**Answer:** Starting January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, all individuals will be required to use the QR code as proof of vaccination. The QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy. Those without a phone or a computer may get their QR code at their local library, Service Ontario center, or call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to have their vaccine certificate mailed to them. Those with medical exemptions will also be required to have a QR code. Until that time, homes can continue accepting vaccination proof by QR code or using the receipt provided at the time of vaccination.



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**4. Aren't there other measures that homes could take, such as increasing PPE for unvaccinated individuals rather than restricting caregivers and general visitors?**

**Answer:** These enhanced measures are necessary to provide safety to residents and staff in a concerted and collective effort to reduce the risk of the virus entering the home, in light of the highly transmissible Omicron variant. All homes and individuals should follow the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements as advised by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Ontario Infection Prevention and Containment (IPAC) best practices. There is no difference in PPE best practices for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

**5. How can residents, staff and caregivers obtain their COVID-19 vaccine or booster doses?**

**Answer:** Residents, staff and caregivers are eligible for a booster / third dose if at least six months have passed since their last dose. The booster / third dose is being offered to strengthen protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 since evidence has shown gradual waning immunity six months after receiving the second dose. It is critical that everyone living and working in a long-term care home is protected to the greatest extent possible, in particular given the highly transmissible Omicron variant. All residents are able to receive their third dose vaccine in the home. Wherever possible homes will also be administering these vaccines to staff and caregivers. Where homes are not able to directly administer vaccines onsite, staff and caregivers can go book an appointment on the provincial COVID-19 vaccination portal, by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900, or through select pharmacies and primary care settings. Individuals who have not yet received a second dose and who wish to receive their second dose at an interval less than 8 weeks from their first dose must call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre or their local public health unit. In addition, as a reminder, the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine is now available to individuals aged 18 and over who have an allergy or contraindication to mRNA vaccines or at the request of an individual who has not yet been vaccinated by contacting their public health unit.

**6. Are there restrictions on resident activities within the home?**

**Answer:** To support the mental health and well-being of residents, activities within the home, such as communal dining, social activities, and exercise classes, continue to be permitted, but large group activities are discouraged and residents should be cohorted for higher-risk activities, such as dining, singing and dancing. Resident Councils' play an important role in the home and should continue to meet.



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**7. Why restrict overnight absences for social purposes? What happens if a resident leaves overnight for social purposes?**

**Answer:** Overnight absences for social purposes have been suspended, based on advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and rapidly increasing community transmission of Delta and Omicron variants. Extended periods of time in the community may create a significant risk of exposing residents to the virus, in particular the highly transmissible Omicron variant, which increases the risk of COVID-19 coming into the long-term care home. According to recent data from the UK, the risk of household transmission is 3.2 times higher with the Omicron variant than it was with the Delta variant. Residents who wish to leave the home overnight for social purposes will be temporarily discharged and will need to follow the appropriate discharge process. To return to the home, the resident will need to follow the re-admission protocol. All residents may continue to leave the home for essential, medical or compassionate absences.

**8. What if an unvaccinated general visitor shows up at a long-term care home?**

**Answer:** Unvaccinated general visitors are permitted to visit residents outdoors where feasible, after being tested or showing proof of a negative test from the previous day. General visitors are also able to take fully vaccinated residents for day absences although safe practices and behaviours should be explained and strongly encouraged. When returning from a day absence, residents will need to follow enhanced symptom screening and testing requirements, and may need to be isolated if they had a known exposure and/or if they test positive.

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:**

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