



Grandview Lodge

Comfort. Compassion. Care.

Important Notice

Easing of Measures

March 12, 2022

Hello Residents, Families and Friends of GVL,

Some positive news and hope toward a return to “normal”.

Trends in key public health and health care indicators continue to improve each week. For example, outbreaks, hospitalizations, and intensive care unit admissions have been declining. With the Omicron wave receding, steps are being taken to re-open Ontario, including easing measures in long-term care homes.

The Ministry of Long-Term Care has been working closely with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on a risk-based approach in long-term care that balances measures that are still needed to reduce COVID-19 risk with the importance of overall resident health, wellbeing and quality of life.

As a result of the progress, effective March 14th, to support this balance and reflect where we are in the pandemic the MLTC has advised LTC Homes of the following:

- All general visitors, including children under the age of 5, can visit homes. Visitors (including caregivers), with the exception of children under the age of 5, need to follow the vaccination policy of the individual long-term care home.
- Outdoor visits can be any size, space permitting.
- There can be up to four (4) general visitors and/or caregivers visiting a resident at one time.
- All residents can go on social overnight absences.
- Social activities can be among different groups of residents. Cohorting is required for dining only.
- Social group activities can be larger in size while crowding should be avoided and masking continued, including for residents where tolerated.

Also as of March 14th, the **provincial directive mandating vaccinations** for LTC visitors and staff will be revoked. This is about continuing to move toward a steady state and means **each home is responsible for its own vaccination policy.**

*For greater clarity, revoking the provincial directive **does not** impact on the ability of homes to retain their employer-led vaccination policies provided they follow applicable laws, such as the Human Rights Code and the Long-Term Care Homes Act, including the Residents' Bill of Rights.*

What does this mean for our GVL community?

In keeping with our home's least restrictive approach as we have through this pandemic, while balancing risk vs benefit and in recognition of the Residents' Bill of Rights, the Grandview Lodge team is happy to welcome all visitors back into the home and we look forward to families reuniting.

Effective March 14th:

- Visitors will not be required to show proof of vaccination.
- General Visitors who are not fully vaccinated or who have not provided proof of full vaccination will be permitted to visit in the home.
- All visitors must complete and pass the active screening tool prior to entering the home.
- General Visitors who are not fully vaccinated or who have not provided proof of full vaccination must complete and pass a rapid antigen test, at a minimum of every other day, prior to visiting a resident, (exception for children under the age of 5).
- Visitors who have provided proof of full vaccination are required to complete and pass a rapid antigen test, at minimum of two (2) times per week but not on consecutive days, prior to visiting a resident, (exception for children under the age of 5).
- All visitors must wear a medical procedure mask for the duration of the visit.
- Visitors may share a meal, snack or beverage with their resident in the resident's room only. Masks must be replaced whenever staff enter the room or immediately upon completion of the meal, snack or beverage.
- Meal tickets may be purchased from Lori Beale. At this time we request that no more than two (2) visitors share a meal with the resident.
- Special occasion meals or larger groups may be discussed and will be approved on an individual basis with considerations given to the circumstances in the home at the time.

The visitation policy is subject to change with little to short notice and is dependant on the status of the home and or surrounding community where risk of transmission is deemed to be of greater concern. For example, the home is declared in outbreak or suspect outbreak.

Please note that GVL policy may differ from that of other LTC Homes and has been adapted having considered our environmental layout, IPAC practices, mitigating factors in place to limit the risk of transmission and the ongoing adherence and commitment to safe practices by our residents, staff and visitors.

Vaccination remains a key defense against COVID-19 and all visitors to GVL who are eligible are encouraged to get vaccinated, including receiving a booster dose. Everyone is reminded of the importance of remaining vigilant with public health measures, such as screening and testing, masking and using appropriate personal protective equipment.

We continue to work with the Haldimand and Norfolk Public Health Unit and the Ministry of Health to monitor trends and will respond as needed if, for example, a new variant emerges.

What Residents Can Expect:

Please see the attached resource document or follow this [link](#):

Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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COVID-19 Policies: What Residents Can Expect in a Long-Term Care Home

(As of March 14, 2022 unless otherwise specified)



All residents may*...

- Enjoy the company of general visitors, consistent with the individual home's vaccination policy
- Have up to four visitors (including caregivers) at a time indoors, consistent with the individual home's vaccination policy.
- Enjoy outdoor visits, with the number of visitors based on the home's policy.
- Participate in group social activities, including games, clubs and exercises.
- Have meals in the dining room, including buffet and family-style meals.
- Leave the home for all types of absences, including social day and overnight absences.

*Unless otherwise directed by the local public health unit or when isolating

What temporary measures are in place to safeguard long-term care homes?

- All staff, students, volunteers, caregivers, support workers and general visitors must be screened and wear masks, whether inside or outside. Those visiting indoors must also be tested.
- Continued infection prevention and control measures will be followed, including distancing between groups and dining tables, masking, hand washing and enhanced cleaning.

What if the home is in outbreak?

Residents can expect the following if the area of the home they live in is in outbreak*:

- Group activities, dining and social gatherings may continue in non-outbreak areas if residents can follow public health measures.
- For outbreak areas of a home, residents will be cohorted in small groups for all essential activities. Group activities for cohorts may continue/resume if operationally feasible.
- Communal dining, non-essential activities and personal care services will be suspended or modified.
- Caregivers can still visit.

*Unless otherwise directed by the local public health unit



COVID-19 Safety Measures for Absences

(As of March 14, 2022 unless otherwise specified)



Whenever outside of the home, residents should do their best to:

- Wear a mask (as tolerated)
- Wash hands frequently
- Limit their contact with others. Avoid crowds and large social gatherings with crowding.

What happens when I return home?

When residents return from a day absence they will:

- Be actively screened
- Undergo rapid antigen testing and a PCR test on day five following the absence.
- Residents who are away frequently can choose to take a PCR test and rapid antigen test, on the same day, twice per week (for example, a PCR and rapid test on Tuesday, with both repeated on Friday). No quarantine is required unless a positive result is received.

When residents return from an overnight absence they will:

- Be actively screened and then monitored for symptoms twice daily for 10 days
 - If returning from a hospital*: PCR or rapid antigen tested prior to or when returning home and quarantined until a negative test result can be obtained.
 - If returning from the community: be screened and quarantine on arrival until negative PCR test result or rapid molecular test result from day five test. Those residents who do not have 3 or 4 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are required to quarantine for 10 days with a PCR test on day five.

Note: Residents who have been COVID-19 positive in the past 90 days may not be required to undergo testing and quarantine requirements when returning from an absence unless they have symptoms of COVID-19.

*Assuming hospital is not in outbreak, resident is not symptomatic and/or had been exposed to COVID-19. If the hospital is in outbreak the PHU will advise on testing and quarantine requirements.

What if I come into contact with someone with COVID-19?

Residents with 3 or 4 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine:

- Screened on arrival and quarantined until a negative result is obtained from the day five test

Residents who are not vaccinated or do not have their 3rd dose:

- Screened on arrival and quarantined for 10 days with a PCR test on day five.
- All residents are still permitted to see their caregivers while in quarantine