



## **General Visiting Policy & Guidelines at the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Long Term Care Home During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Revised July 7, 2021)**

As cited in Covid-19 Directive #3 “The aim for managing visitors is to balance the need to mitigate risks to residents, staff and visitors with the mental, physical and spiritual needs of residents for their quality of life”.

On Nov 3, 2020 Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, ordered:

Immediately cease all indoor visits at the facility with residents by “general visitors”, regardless of whether the facility is currently experiencing an outbreak of a communicable disease;

November 16, 2020 Colour Tiered Visiting Restriction and November 23, 2020 Testing Requirements for Designated Caregivers.

Feb 15, 2021 Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, expanded order to include enhanced screening questions regarding household members

February 16, 2021 with further revised update on March 15, 2021 Minister’s Directive: Covid 19: Long Term Care Home Surveillance Testing and Access to Homes – Rapid Antigen Testing

**NEW Effective June 9, 2021 - Close Contact in programs and dining space, Resident Absence based on Vaccination Status and Outdoor General Visitors permitted.**

**NEW Effective July 1, 2021 – Covid 19 – Immunization Policy**

**NEW Effective July 7, 2021 – Limit of 2 designated essential caregivers is removed. Process to apply and testing requirements remain. Indoor General Visitors permitted following screening and testing. Indoor visiting limit of 2 General Visitors and 2 Essential Caregivers at a time. Outdoor visiting limit increased to 10.**

### **Definition of Fully Immunized:**

Where applicable, a person is fully immunized against COVID-19 if:

- They have received the total required number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by Health Canada (e.g., both doses of a two-dose vaccine series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine series); and
- They received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.

All individuals, whether or not they have received a COVID-19 vaccine, must continue to practice the recommended public health measures for the prevention and control of COVID-19 infection and transmission.

This Visiting Guideline applies to General Visitors and small changes to this guidelines are highlighted based on the most recent revisions. Your family still has the option to visit following several options listed below some of which are contingent on weather.

### **General Visitors (Definition)**

A general visitor is a person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting:

- a) To provide non-essential services, who may or may not be hired by the home or the resident and/or their substitute decision maker; and/or,
- b) For social reasons (e.g., family members or friends) that the resident or their substitute decision-maker assess as different from direct care, including care related to cognitive stimulation, meaningful connection and relational continuity.

General visitors under 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Visitors should consider their personal health and susceptibility to the Covid-19 virus in determining whether visiting a long-term care home is appropriate.

This gradual, staged resumption of visits is guided by the following principles: safety first, emotional well-being by reducing the impact of social isolation on Residents and families, equitable access and flexibility as a result of physical/infrastructure characteristics, staffing availability and PPE supplies.

At the IOOF Seniors Homes we recognize the importance of family/friends visiting and value maintaining connectivity amongst family members/significant others and our Residents. This is why from the onset of the pandemic we have been providing the opportunity for Virtual Visits and proactively partitioned off a patio for safe visiting.

We have designated visiting areas both indoor and outdoor for you and your family member to visit safely. Enhanced cleaning will take place between visits following strict IPAC procedures.

NEW All visitors must attest to reading these guidelines as well as reviewing the following materials (Public Health Ontario PDF and YouTube Links) before the next visit. Prior to visiting any resident for the first time after this policy is released, and at least once every month thereafter, general visitors must verbally attest to the home that they have read/re-read the home's visitor policy.

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-on>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-off>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handwash>

### General Visitors

A maximum of **two (2)** general visitors per resident may visit indoors at a time and a maximum of **ten (10)** general visitors may visit outdoors, subject to direction from the local public health unit, provided:

- The resident is not self-isolating or symptomatic; and,
- The home is not in an outbreak; and,
- The home is located in an area that has **not** been identified as having higher community spread

No general visitors are permitted to visit in any of the following situations:

- The home has an outbreak.
- The home is located in an area that **has** been identified as having higher community spread
- The resident is self-isolating or symptomatic.

General visitors younger than 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult and must follow all applicable public health measures that are in place at the home (e.g. active screening, physical distancing, hand hygiene, masking for source control).

All visitors are subject to active screening at the front entrance of the Home.

Masks are mandatory for the entire time of both indoor and outdoor visits including onsite walks around the property.

For indoor visits masks and eye protection will be provided by the home.

Close contact is permitted between fully immunized Residents and fully immunized visitors.

There will be no passing of food or drink during the visit. Items for the Resident shall be left on the receiving table

## Your 4 Options for General Visiting are as follows:

### **Option 1 – Safe Virtual Visits – No Risk**

20-30min Virtual Visits can be booked by contacting [recreation@ioof.com](mailto:recreation@ioof.com)  
We are able to use FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, Google Duo – you must have a device or computer compatible with one of these apps.

More information can be found on our website.

<https://www.ioof.com/covid-19#.XuVHi9VKgkl>

### **Option 2 – Safe Partitioned Patio Outdoor Visit – Low Risk to Resident Maximum of 10 General Visitors**

30 min visits can be booked on our Safe Partitioned Patio which has a plexi-glass barrier by contacting [recreation@ioof.com](mailto:recreation@ioof.com)

Please arrive 10 min before your scheduled appointment. Visitors are asked to practice social distancing, limit to 10 visitors per household at a time and wear a mask – fabric or surgical. Should you not have a mask, one will be provided. We allow no more than 2 children with 1 adult at any one time. Pets are allowed on the Partitioned Patio only (i.e. one small dog)

You must **actively screen in first at the home front entrance**. You will be asked a series of screening questions and asked to sign in for tracing purposes and given further instructions. Then you will proceed to the lower parking lot at the Ambulance Entrance up a set of stairs to the **Georgian Way Partitioned Patio**. Please note, use of stairs is at your own risk.

Sanitize Hands Before and After: Please ensure you sanitize hands thoroughly, both before and after your visit and if touching the plexi-glass partition.

Distance – Maintain Physical Distancing – Stay in Designated Areas: There is the possibility that more than one visit can be taking place at the same time. We have indicated spaces for your visit to stay within and ask you to maintain physical distancing from those not in your household.

Families – Same Household Only: We are asking you to only visit with other members of your household, with a maximum of 10 Visitors pre-arranged for special occasion.

Touch: You will not be able to touch or embrace during your visit, but you can touch the surface of the plexiglass and you can remove your face covering in front of the Plexiglas during the visit. Your facial mask must be reapplied as you leave the patio visiting area.

Sound: There are screens to assist both parties to hear each other and if required we have pairs of walkie talkies if sound needs to be amplified on either side.

### **Option 3 – Outdoor Visit Only Front Entrance of the Home – Mod. Risk Maximum of 4 General Visitors**

A covid-19 test is not required for outdoor visits.

30 minute outdoor visits can be booked by contacting [recreation@ioof.com](mailto:recreation@ioof.com)

You must **actively screen in first at the home front entrance**. You will be asked a series of screening questions and asked to sign in for tracing purposes and given further instructions. These outdoor visits will occur at the front entrance of the Home at designated and marked areas for social distancing.

Please arrive 10 min before your scheduled visit.

Close contact may occur between fully immunized visitors and fully immunized residents.

Non immunized visitors must maintain physical distancing and you must refrain from embracing.

You must wear at minimum a non-medical mask (i.e. cloth mask, bandana or other face covering) for the entire time including at the entrance for screening and for the duration of your visit.

This type of visit is restricted to up to four (4) visitors at a time per Resident per week lasting 30 minutes and must be scheduled. No drop in visits permitted.

Further the visitor must comply with the following Ministry of Long Term Care requirements:

Prior to each visit, the visitor must:

1) Pass an active screening questionnaire administered by home staff including an attestation that in the last 14 days, they have NOT visited a:

i) Resident who is self-isolating or symptomatic; and/or at a Home which is in outbreak.

2) Comply with long-term care home infection, prevention and control (IPAC) protocols, including proper use of face or surgical/procedural masks for the duration of the screening and entire visit.

- (i) Visitors should use a face covering even if the visit is outdoors. Visitors are responsible for bringing their own face covering for outside visits, if not available a surgical mask will be provided.
- (ii) Maintain Physical Distance and Absolutely No passing of any items
- (iii) Children under 14 years of age are permitted so long as they pass the same screening requirements and must be accompanied by an adult

(iv) and no pets allowed

NEW Physical contact may occur during a general outdoor visit if the Resident and visitor are fully immunized. The visitor must wear a surgical/procedural mask the entire time of the visit. If physical distance is not maintained during the visit and there is planned physical contact then the Resident must wear a surgical/procedural mask during the duration of the visit as tolerated.

#### **Option 4 – Indoor Visit – Heightened Risk**

**Reinstated effective July 7, 2021**

**Maximum Two (2) general visitors with the possibility of Two (2) essential caregivers at one time**

Effective July 7, 2021, safe indoor visits in a designated area will be available. 30 minute indoor visits can be booked by contacting [recreation@ioof.com](mailto:recreation@ioof.com)

These indoor visits will occur near the front entrance of the Home at a designated indoor space with marked areas for social distancing.

Please arrive 20 min before your scheduled visit to complete active screening and Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Testing available on site at a frequency required as per directive.

Physical distancing must be maintained. You must wear a surgical/procedural mask which will be provided for the entire time including at the entrance for screening and for the duration of your visit. Close contact may only occur between fully immunized visitors and residents.

As per Directive #3 and Ministry of Long Term Care Resuming Visits in Long-term Care Homes Guidelines.

This type of visit is restricted to **two (2)** visitors at one time per Resident per week lasting 30 minutes and **must be scheduled**. The persons visiting can change on a weekly basis provided they meet the below requirements. **No drop in visits allowed**.

Further the visitor must comply with the following requirements:  
Prior to each visit, the visitor must:

- 3) Pass an active screening questionnaire administered by home staff including an attestation that in the last 14 days the visitor has NOT visited a;
  - i) Resident who is self-isolating or symptomatic; and/or at a Home which is in outbreak.

- 4) Participate in on site Rapid Antigen testing at a frequency set out by the directive For Public Health tracing requirements you will sign in with contact information and confirm the date of your last test and results. Please have this information available at the time of screening.
- 5) Comply with long-term care home infection, prevention and control (IPAC) protocols, including the proper use of surgical/procedural masks.
  - (i) Visitors must wear the surgical/procedural mask provided for the duration of the screening and entire visit.
  - (ii) Maintain Physical Distance No Touching and Absolutely No passing of any items
  - (iii) Only fully immunized visitors and residents may have close physical contact with appropriate masking
  - (iv) Children under 14 years of age permitted so long as they pass the same screening requirements and must be accompanied by an adult (New)
  - (v) and no pets allowed

NEW Physical contact may occur during an indoor general visit if the Resident and visitor are fully immunized. The visitor must wear a surgical/procedural mask the entire time of the visit. If physical distance is not maintained during the visit and there is planned physical contact then the Resident must wear a surgical/procedural mask during the duration of the visit.

### **Kempenfelt Court Dementia Care Unit Only– Special Exceptions**

Visits must be booked and scheduled by emailing [recreation@ioof.com](mailto:recreation@ioof.com)

Option #1 Safe Virtual Visits continues to be available.

There may be opportunity to have a Safe Partitioned Patio Visit – Option 2 - provided the Resident from Kempenfelt Court is safe to do so.

The above Option #3 – Outdoor Visit applies to all outdoor visits occurring on Kempenfelt Court as well. A designated area off of the back courtyard – accessible via Williams St has been established.

**Reinstated** - Indoor Visit - Option # 4 is available on Kempenfelt Court in a designated location. The visitor is asked to arrive 20 min before their scheduled visit and come to the front entrance to be screened and tested. A Home staff will then escort the visitor to the designated indoor location.

Regardless of which option you choose and in order to provide equal opportunity, scheduled visits are restricted to one booking per week for 30 minutes.

All Visitors must comply with all the applicable above requirements, all directions from staff during the screening and entire time of visit.

We will do our best to accommodate your request, however, appointment times available are based on staffing and space availability. You will not be able to hold a date and time per week but must schedule each weekly visit individually. Some weekend and evening spots are available but are limited to those individuals who cannot make a daytime appointment. Appointments must be booked in advance. We cannot accommodate drop-ins or same day requests.

Please note all options are subject to change due to evolving directives, resident well-being, outbreak status of the home and in the case of either of the outdoor visit options inclement weather.

Should you have difficulty arranging a visit via email at [recreation@ioof.com](mailto:recreation@ioof.com) (the preferred and most effective way) or do not have access to email please contact Gaja Damas, Director of Program Support & Volunteer Services at 705-728-2389 Ext. 338 and she will ensure a scheduled visit is arranged.

Please note should the Home be in outbreak strict visitor restrictions will resume under the guidance of Public Health.

If a Resident is self-isolating or symptomatic, general visits are not permitted.

Further, a Resident's condition, ability to follow instructions and/or wishes may negate the visit from occurring.

Please note that no items can be passed to the Resident during the visit. If you are wishing to leave a package, poster, gift etc. please drop off at the front entrance vestibule at the receiving table clearly marked for who it is for.

Any non-adherence to these rules could result in a discontinuation of visits for the non-compliant visitor.

We are learning through this together.

Thank you for your immense patience during these very challenging days and for entrusting the care of your loved ones to the staff of our home.

More information is available on our website [www.ioof.com](http://www.ioof.com) follow the Covid-19 tab.