



Short Stay and Temporary Absence Policy & Guidelines at the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Long Term Care Home During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Effective July 16, 2021)

Resident will be permitted on Medical, Social and Temporary absences.

NEW Effective July 16, 2021 – All Residents may go on all types of absences regardless of immunization status.

NEW Effective June 9th, Short Term – Social Absences are now permitted for **fully immunized** Residents only. Temporary Absences (overnight) are now also permitted for fully immunized Residents. Prior approval for temporary absences from the home is required. You are asked to complete the Absence Form. Forms are available on our website at www.ioof.com and also at the screening table.

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.

Short Stay and Temporary Absences

Changes to Directive #3 for Long Term Care have now reinstated and permit Short Stay Absences and Temporary Absences.

- **Short stay absences** are for social or other reasons and do not include an overnight stay
- **Temporary absences** are for personal reasons and for one or more nights.

Medical Absences

- **Medical** are defined as leaving the home's property for medical reasons (i.e., outpatient visits, single night emergency room visit)

Homes must review all short stay absence requests and approve temporary absences based on a case-by-case risk assessment as outlined in Directive #3.

Please note that Resident's overall wellbeing and current local community risk as well as the applicable travel location community risk must be taken into consideration when determining the appropriateness of a short stay or temporary absence.

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health states that for the foreseeable future to the fullest extent possible we should limit the number of essential trips we make. Given the greater risk of severe outcomes to Ontarians who are elderly, he is also recommending strongly that individuals over 70 years of age self-isolate. This means only leaving home and seeing others for essential reasons unless fully vaccinated.

The resident or substitute decision maker must make an absence request to the home. Homes must review and approve all temporary absence requests based on a case by case risk assessment considering, but not limited to, the following:

- The home's ability to support self-isolation upon the resident's return.
- Local disease transmission and activity.
- The risk associated with the planned activities that will be undertaken
- The resident's ability to comply with local and provincial policies/ bylaws.
- All residents returning from a temporary absence are required to actively screen and have a laboratory based PCR Covid-19 Test upon their return and remain in isolation on droplet and contact precautions while there test result is pending.

For homes located in public health unit jurisdictions where there is evidence of widespread community transmission as per provincial direction, absence approval will be guided by the local public health authority.

All Residents or their Substitute Decision Maker are asked to fill out the Short Stay or Temporary Absence Authorization Form and to submit the form for processing and approval to NusingManagement@ioof.com prior to their next scheduled absence. Residents or their Substitute Decision Maker are asked to include the names of individuals authorized for pick up. Please note that forms will be reviewed, processed and approved Monday to Friday 9am to 5 pm. Once submitted, forms will be reviewed on an as needed basis.

Residents or their Substitute Decision Maker are to inform the charge nurse of their Home Area of their planned short stay absence by 10am the morning of the scheduled absence if the absence is requested to occur after 12pm. For those absences that will occur in the morning prior to 12 noon please contact the charge nurse the day before. Residents or their substitute decision maker will consult the charge nurse on the time of

pick up and drop off so all parties are aware. The Resident will be ready and waiting at the front entrance for pick up. The authorized pick up individual must wear a mask and the Resident must wear a surgical procedural mask for the entire time of their absence. When drop off occurs the Resident will be escorted back to their room following screening.

Please contact the Resident Care Management Team to discuss absence options at NursingManagement@ioof.com

Resident Absences under Covid 19 Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes Frequently Asked Questions

What requirements must residents follow when they are away from the home on an absence?

Residents on a short stay absence must wear a medical mask at all times when outside the home (if tolerated). The home must provide the medical mask and remind residents about the importance of public health measures including physical distancing.

What is required when a resident is returning from a short stay or temporary absence?

Residents returning from a short stay absence must be actively screened but are not required to be tested or self-isolate.

All residents returning from a temporary absence are required to actively screen and have a laboratory based PCR Covid-19 Test upon their return and remain in isolation on droplet and contact precautions while their test result is pending.

Please note all the above is subject to change, during outbreak measures and further direction from Public Health.