

Veterans Centre Guidelines for Indoor Visits with Essential Care Partners (ECPs)

We continue to schedule indoor visits with residents and their Essential Care Partners. ECP's are permitted to support the emotional well-being of residents. Each resident and/or their Substitute Decision Maker may designate a maximum of two Essential Care Partners. These guidelines are effective March 29, 2021.

Vaccinations and Covid-19 testing

Essential Care Partners (ECP's) who have not received the COVID- 19 vaccine:

You must continue to attest to having a negative COVID-19 test within 7 days for your visit. You may participate in a physically-distanced visit, but not a close-contact visit.

ECP's who are vaccinated for COVID-19:

For the first two weeks after your first vaccine dose, please continue to attest to a negative COVID-19 test within the last 7 days in order to have a physically-distanced visit.

Once you have been vaccinated with a first dose for at least 14 days:

- You will be asked to provide proof of your vaccination or share an image of proof of vaccination upon each visit; this requirement replaces the need to obtain / attest to a negative COVID-19 test
- As long as the Veteran you are visiting has also been vaccinated, ECP's are able to have a close-contact visit. If the Veteran you are visiting has not been vaccinated, your visit will remain physically distanced for safety reasons.

ECP's who have had COVID-19 in the past:

If you have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days and have been cleared by Toronto Public Health of active infection, you may visit as an ECP. You do not require testing for 90 days following your first positive test result. Visitors must share confirmation of their positive test prior to their visit with their Social Worker; they will be notified when testing needs to be resumed.

Resident and vaccination status

ONLY vaccinated residents visiting with vaccinated ECPs meet the requirements for a close-contact visit. ECP's and residents must both wear a mask for these visits. The ECP must wear a face shield if the resident is unable to wear a mask.

Unvaccinated residents may only participate in physically-distanced visits.

Scheduling of Visits and Pre Screening

- Visits must be scheduled in advance. The health care team will submit your visit requests for booking. Visits will be booked on a 4-week cycle, and will be confirmed by email. Alternate requests for visits will be accommodated.
- The resident or their Substitute Decision Maker must identify two (2) Essential Care Partners who will have access to indoor visits on a weekly basis. **Only ONE ECP may visit at a time.**
- Visits will take place in the Annex. Visitors will identify their request for a close-contact or physically-distanced visit at the screener's desk.
- The area will be set up to offer a close-contact or physically-distanced visit based on vaccination status.
- Visits will be 45 minutes in length, and will not be scheduled during mealtimes.
- Indoor visits may replace virtual visits.
- *Please self-screen before arriving (using the attached Visitor Self-Screening Checklist). If you are experiencing **any** symptoms of COVID-19, have recently travelled internationally or had close contact with someone who has travelled internationally within the last 14 days, have come into contact with someone with a respiratory illness, or who is COVID-19 positive, please contact your family member's unit as soon as possible to cancel your visit - **do not** visit the facility.*
- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled visit to check-in at the screening table.
- Staff will be available to supervise visits, ensure physical distancing, and to maintain visit start and end times.
- The screener will provide you with a mask; you are to wear this mask for the duration of your visit. Visitors will not be permitted to enter the visit area if this requirement is not met.
- Wearing of gloves is not permitted.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided. You will be required to sanitize your hands before entering and when exiting the visiting area.
- You are required to maintain a 2 meter / 6 foot physical distance from all others during your visit. This includes the resident you are visiting and others in the visiting area, unless you meet the requirements for a close-contact visit.
- You may not exchange personal items, provide personal care / grooming, consume food or beverages during your visit.
- Visitors must be 16 years or over to visit. Pets are not permitted.
- If for any reason you need to cancel a visit, please let the unit know as quickly as possible.

Please note:

The health and safety of the residents, their families, and the well-being of our staff members is our priority. This facility maintains zero tolerance for failure to comply with the *Guidelines for Indoor Visiting for Essential Care Partners* or any actions that may place the health and safety of residents, staff or families at risk. Visits may be discontinued at any time due to an outbreak, or at the discretion of the Infection Prevention and Control team. All guidelines for cleaning and safety are followed.



**Veterans Centre
Visitor Self-Screening Checklist**

1. Do you have a fever (temperature of 37.8C or greater)? Yes No

2. Are you experiencing ANY of the following symptoms?

New or worsening cough Yes No

Shortness of breath Yes No

Sore throat Yes No

Runny nose or sneezing Yes No

Nasal congestion Yes No

Hoarse voice Yes No

Difficulty swallowing Yes No

New smell or taste disorder(s) Yes No

Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain Yes No

Unexplained fatigue/malaise Yes No

Chills Yes No

Headache Yes No

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) Yes No

3. Have you travelled internationally, or had close contact with anyone that has travelled internationally in the past 14 days?

Yes No

4. Have you had close contact with anyone with respiratory illness or a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?

Yes No

If you answer "Yes" to any of the above questions **do not visit.** Inform the Patient Care Unit that you are unable to visit at this time

Check one:

Proof of vaccination for COVID-19 - Date of first dose ___/___/___ (required for each visit)

I attest that I have tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous seven days.

COVID-19 vaccination or testing not required at this time (positive COVID-19 result verified)

Close-contact visit **Physically-distanced visit**

I (print name) _____ verify the above information to be true.

SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____, 2021