



How you want to be treated.

Memorandum

To Residents, Families and Friends

From Communications on behalf of Bhavan Manhas, Program Director Long-term Care and Assisted Living

Date July 9, 2021

Re. INFORMATION BULLETIN: UPDATE LONG-TERM CARE VISITATION GUIDELINES

Yesterday, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer (PHO) and Minister Adrian Dix [announced eased visitation restrictions](#) and new protections coming for Long-term Care (LTC) in B.C. **Beginning Monday, July 19, 2021** a further easing of pandemic restrictions will come into effect giving all residents in LTC and Assisted Living (AL) more ways to spend time together safely.

Changes to LTC and AL include:

- Visitors will no longer need to schedule or book in advance to visit loved ones, and the limit on the number of visitors for each resident will be removed.
- Fully immunized visitors can visit with residents without wearing a mask, except for when travelling through common areas.
- Larger, facility-wide social events or gatherings are safe to begin again.
- Indoor gatherings may include residents and staff across units of a facility, while outdoor gatherings may include family and friends.
- Adult day programs and in-facility respite can fully resume, providing additional health and wellbeing benefits for seniors and caregivers in community.

In addition to the above changes, Dr. Henry and Minister Dix shared updates related to Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) practices and vaccine reporting requirements. A summary of these additional details can be found here: [Eased Visitation Restrictions and New Protections](#)

We recognize many of the outlined changes may generate questions and requests for more details. As we are receiving the information with the general public, we want to assure you we are working with our Health Authority partners and awaiting additional clarification from the Ministry of Health. In the coming week, care home leaders will receive additional information to support planning to align with the new pandemic directives. In the interim, all existing precautions and requirements remain in place.

Our care homes are thrilled to support enhanced visiting and are excited to witness the hugs, laughter and joy as residents reunite with their friends and family members with greater ease and flexibility. We expect to receive a high volume of visitors as restrictions are eased. We are eager to facilitate more visits for residents, but we will need to do so carefully while balancing

Sites: St. Paul's Hospital | Holy Family Hospital | Mount Saint Joseph Hospital | Youville Residence | St. John Hospice
St. Vincent's: Brock Fahrni, Langara, Honoria Conway - Heather | Crosstown Clinic

Community Dialysis Clinics: Sechelt | Richmond | Powell River | Squamish | North Shore | Vancouver | East Vancouver

existing resources and ensuring we have a strong safety plan in place. Therefore, we ask for your patience as we work to accommodate everyone.

This will be a big change from how we've been operating for the last fifteen months and we appreciate your support and thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we navigate these changing circumstances.

Learn more:

- To register to be immunized or to learn about getting your second dose, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html>
- Or <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/dose-2>
- To learn about BC's Restart plan, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart>
- For the updated guidance for long-term care and seniors' assisted living facilities, visit [BC Centre for Disease Control's website](#).
- Residents of our long-term care facilities and their families can find more information [here](#).