

GES Bulletin

31 December 2021

Changes to Visiting at Greenwoods and Braehaven

As announced by Dr. Henry this morning, effective tomorrow 1 January, visits to Long Term Care will be limited to essential visitors only. It is unclear at this stage whether these restrictions are mandatory at Assisted Living; however, given the surge of Omicron cases in our community, it is prudent to include Braehaven in this change of directive.

Essential Visit Definition

Essential visits as defined by the Ministry of Health (MOH) are linked with an essential need that could not be met in the absence of the essential visit. Essential visits include, but are not limited to:

- Visits for compassionate care including:
 - Critical illness and palliative care
- Visits paramount to the Resident's physical care and mental well-being, including:
 - Assistance with meals
 - Assistance with mobility
 - Assistance with personal care
 - Communication assistance for residents with hearing, visual, speech, cognitive, intellectual or memory impairments
 - Assistance by designated representatives for residents with disabilities, including providing emotional support
 - Provision of cultural or spiritual care as defined by resident or family
- Visits for supported decision making
- Visitors required to move belongings in or out of a resident's room

Essential visits shall be limited to one visitor per resident (except in the case of palliative/end-of-life care).

Essential visits do not need to be scheduled in advance; however, this may change when rapid testing is introduced. **Visitors are requested to keep their mask on at all times**, even in the privacy of the resident's room.

With the surge of Omicron, it is paramount that we continue to do all that we can to safeguard the wellbeing of the Residents. It is regrettable that social visits will need to be suspended temporarily and we will do our best to accommodate as many Zoom and phone visits as possible.

It is our understanding that this directive will be in place until the 18th January.

We will be contacting the Residents' contacts who we have registered as essential visitors. If you do not receive a call or email from us today, then you are not currently registered as an essential visitor. Please feel free to contact me via email or on 250 538 7828 if you would like to discuss the visitor designation.

Mandatory Rapid Testing of Visitors

As announced last week, rapid testing of visitors will soon be required. We are still awaiting our supply of Rapid Antigen Tests and further clarification from the Ministry of Health as to the protocols. More information regarding the requirement for rapid testing is expected early next week.

Wishes for 2022

We greatly appreciate the ongoing support, patience and understanding from Residents, families, and friends as we continue to navigate the evolving protocols. I also want to thank our Team who continue to provide care and services with such compassion, dedication, and commitment.

2021 is certainly going out with a flourish and we look forward to 2022 with optimism that we will get through this Omicron wave and emerge with an ever-greater appreciation for our connections with others and our community. I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warmest regards
Aletha

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