



# Elgin County Long-Term Care Homes

## MEMO

**TO:** Residents, Families, Visitors  
**DATE:** October 17, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Resident and Family Update - Pandemic Measures

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Dear Residents and Family Members:

We are writing to provide an update on recently announced pandemic measures and visiting/absences. The province announced on October 6, 2022 updated recommendations in relation to pandemic response measures effective October 14, 2022.

Key Updates:

- There is no longer a limit of 4 visitors per resident for indoor visits – the number of visitors will be based on the Homes capacity/physical/available space to support additional visitors
- Recognizing this change, visitors and residents are reminded of physical distancing requirements such that residents are encouraged to continue to avoid situations like crowded places where COVID-19 can spread more easily
- Active screening for visitors remains in place, as does rapid antigen testing requirements prior to entry to the Long-Term Care Home
- While masks continue to be required for long-term care home staff, as well as for visitors and others entering the Home, masks may be removed by a visitor when the visitor is alone in a resident room with the resident. Visitors must immediately put their mask back on should a staff member, resident or other visitor enter the resident room.
- When a visitor is alone in a resident room with the resident, the visitor may eat or drink while alone. Visitors must immediately put their mask back on should a staff member, resident or other visitor enter the resident room.
- COVID-19 rapid antigen/PCR testing of residents upon return from an absence is no longer required unless the resident has symptoms upon screening/assessment. If the resident presents with symptoms, the resident will be tested and placed into isolation as required.

Additional updates:

- County of Elgin Homes continue to maintain a minimum two dose COVID-19 vaccination policy requirement for all visitors; and strongly encourages all visitors to remain “up to date” with vaccination. At this time, “Up to date” with COVID-19 vaccines means having completed the primary series and received a COVID-19 vaccine within the last 6 months.
- County of Elgin Homes have updated the Visitor and Resident Absence policy to reflect the following changes:
  - In exceptional circumstances, where outdoor visits and/or outings are not feasible (i.e. inclement weather), management of the Home will utilize the risk assessment/condition checklist criteria to determine the Homes’ ability to support pre-scheduled unvaccinated visitor visits within a designated area of the Home
  - The risk assessment/condition checklist will incorporate resident and roommate (if applicable) considerations, additional Infection Prevention and Control measures to be taken by the visitor and resident, ability to schedule visit appointments in designated locations, etc.

- Additional update: Rapid antigen testing. Two of our Homes have experienced COVID-19 outbreaks since September 2022. As such, the County of Elgin Homes have implemented a change to rapid antigen testing requirements which involves all persons entering the Home to rapid antigen test utilizing the oral/nasal technique. This approach to rapid antigen testing is proven to be more effective in the early identification of COVID-19 infection, and provides additional protection to the vulnerable population in our Homes. Staff of the Home will be available to support visitors in the oral/nasal swab technique with your next visit.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work towards making all of the necessary pandemic measure adjustments to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, visitors and staff.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to a manager of the Home.

Sincerely,  
Terri Benwell, Administrator, Bobier Villa and Elgin Manor  
Christine Leonard, Administrator, Terrace Lodge