



September 11, 2020

To: Residents and Family Members,

Updated Provincial Visiting Protocols

You were recently informed of changes to our visiting policy, where visits inside our building were now permitted by the Province and our Home. Those protocols and all the associated parameters have not changed.

However, the Province just updated its “Resuming Visits in Long-Term Care Homes” guidance document for all Homes in Ontario, and we wanted to keep you informed regarding the new changes. Fundamentally, very little has changed:

- Visits with residents may include one OR two visitors.
- Visits may be held outdoors or indoors, with all indoor visits requiring surgical masks (versus cloth face coverings) and a negative COVID-19 test in the previous 14 days.

The new guidance document provides details about how Homes are to manage various types of visitors and deal with non-compliance. For the most part our Home already had the appropriate pieces in place, so there are no changes to share with you. However, the Province added details about what training and education visitors to long-term care homes must have. The changes are:

- Visitors must read the Home’s visiting policy and attest that they have done so on at least a monthly basis.
- Essential Caregiver Visitors, persons identified as caregivers in a resident’s Care Plan, must read the Home’s essential caregiver policy and attest that they have done so on at least a monthly basis.

Accordingly, we will be providing copies of the relevant policies at our entrance screening-station. We will be adjusting our screening process to ask about, and document, these new ‘policy-reading’ attestations. If you are planning a visit, please review the relevant policies. Those documents, plus additional education materials, have been made available as a convenience on our organization’s website. Just go to our website and follow the links, or visit: <https://aoninc.com/covid19-communication>.

We ask for your continued patience as we implement evolving guidelines. As always, the health and safety of our residents and staff continues to be our top priority.

Administrator