



## Updated LTC/ AL Visitation Guidance - Effective March 18, 2022

Dear residents, families and loved ones,

As announced by Dr Bonnie Henry in her briefing last week, changes to visitation in Long-term Care (LTC) and Assisted Living (AL) facilities take effect tomorrow, **March 18, 2022**. The ministry is now working on finalizing the updated version of the “Ministry of Health – Overview of Visitors in Long-Term Care and Seniors’ Assisted Living” guidance which will be posted on the BCCDC website tomorrow.

Here are some of the important information that you need to know:

- **Social visitation is no longer restricted in Louis Brier Home and Hospital (LBHH) and Weinberg Residence (WR)**
- There remain **3 categories of visits – Essential, Single Designated and Social** (where essential and single designated visitors may visit during an outbreak). **Essential visits** are necessarily linked with an essential need (i.e. for compassionate reasons, paramount to residents’ physical care and mental wellbeing, supported decision-making, etc) that could not be met in the absence of the essential visit. Facility staff will determine if a visit is essential. A **single designated visitor** is the person who a resident has been supported to identify, who may continue to visit the resident at times when visitation is restricted. **Social visits** are visits other than essential visits or visits from a single designated visitor where the primary purpose is to provide opportunities for residents to spend time with loved ones to support their social, spiritual, and emotional wellbeing.
- Individuals 12 years or older visiting **must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide proof of vaccination status** prior to entry
- **Rapid antigen testing for all visitors**, 12 years or older, remains a requirement, including for social visitors. It is recommended for regular and frequent visitors **not to undergo testing more than 3 times in one week**. Individuals who test positive will not be permitted to proceed with a visit and will be instructed to self-isolate.
- **Rapid antigen testing for visitors may be done onsite or at home prior to visiting** (within 48 hours of the visit and will be reported as part of the screening process). Test kits for at home use may be accessed from community pharmacies or from LBHH/WR by asking the Visitation Assistant to give you a kit for use prior to your next visit. We encourage you to check your local pharmacies first before

getting the supply from LBHH/WR. Testing at home will save you the 20-30 minutes waiting time when done onsite. Please note that we currently have Artron rapid test kits for take home. Instruction sheets and videos on how to conduct rapid antigen tests can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/3iiUOWt>

- **Masking in common areas (and multi-bed rooms) is still required**, but as per pre Omicron guidance, fully vaccinated visitors can now remove their masks in single resident rooms/suites
- Visitors are **not permitted** to participate in large indoor events/gatherings but may accompany a resident for regular daily social/recreation activities and wear a mask the entire duration of the program/activity
- **Visitation hours** for both LBHH and WR residents daily is **9:00AM to 8:00PM**. All Weinberg Residence visitors will continue to be screened and tested at the Main entrance of LBHH (1055 West 41st Ave.) prior to entering WR

Please continue to perform hand hygiene and change your mask prior to entering the facility.