

THE SALVATION ARMY
MEIGHEN HEALTH CENTRE
1. Administration

Subject: Visitation Policy	Policy: 1.1.14
Effective Date: June 17, 2020	Site: IAMM
Revised: November 7, 2023	Approved By: Monica Klein-Nouri

BACKGROUND

In response to the global pandemic, the Ministry of Health implemented visitor restrictions in all LTC homes within Ontario. However, in March 2023, the Ministry of LTC announced the winding down of the COVID-19-specific policies through a gradual approach. Per the latest directions, the directions regarding essential and general visitors for LTC residents changed again on November 3, 2023, with an implementation date no later than November 7, 2023.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The visitor policy of the Meighen Health Centre strives to balance the need to mitigate risks to residents, staff and visitors while providing the opportunity for connecting with friends and family during a COVID-19 pandemic.

This policy is subject to change depending on provincial directives, community prevalence of COVID-19, resources available to safely screen and manage visitors, and current conditions within the home. Changes to the visitor policy will be communicated via email; a copy will be uploaded on the Home's website under the Infection Prevention Tab, posted on the bulletin board at Reception and made available upon request. Should the home go into an outbreak or, for other reasons, be required to close entirely to visitors, families will be notified via email as quickly as possible and/or via telephone.

A schedule of general visits is not required to be maintained now. The visits are continuing without restrictions regarding scheduling.

There are no restrictions regarding the number of visitors. However, we strongly encourage visitors to limit the number to 3 visitors at a time indoors.

Information about respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, infection prevention and control practices, and proper PPE use will be provided as needed and may change according to needs.

Masking requirements for essential caregivers, family members and visitors:

- Masks are required in all resident areas of the home. This means that caregivers and visitors must wear a well-fitted mask in all common resident areas.
- They can remove their mask while in the resident room or when they join in for dining and/or sharing a meal or beverage in the dining room.
- Masks are available at the Reception; outside/worn masks are not allowed in the Home

In outbreak situations or if a resident is on additional precautions, all individuals must comply with masking and other personal protective equipment requirements as directed by the outbreak management team and the local public health unit.

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There is no active screening and surveillance testing in place as of April 1, 2023. However, The following measures will continue:

- Everyone must self-screen for symptoms or exposure to COVID-19 before entering the Home and must not visit if they are sick (24 hours after respiratory symptoms and 48 hours after gastrointestinal symptoms)
- Visitors with COVID-19 must not visit the Home for 10 days after symptom onset or positive test result
- Infection prevention and control measures will continue to be followed, including hand washing and enhanced cleaning

Pets are welcomed, provided their required vaccinations are up to date and they remain on a leash at all times.

The health and safety of the residents, their families, and our staff members' well-being is our priority.

TYPES OF VISITORS- DEFINITIONS

Essential Visitors

Essential visitors are defined as a person performing essential support services (e.g. food delivery, maintenance or health care services), caregivers (essential visitors designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker) or a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident. Caregivers must be at least 18 years of age. The Home keeps a list of essential visitors updated regularly and as needed.

Effective April 1, 2023, visitors are not required to be vaccinated for COVID-19, and visitor numbers are not limited. However, we highly recommend that all visitors keep their vaccination status current.

General Visitors (Indoor & Outdoor Visits)

All other visitors, except children under 1 year of age, are considered general visitors.

MANAGING SAFE VISITS

The home has the discretion to supervise visits to manage health and safety during visits. Where the need to supervise visits arises, the supervision will be implemented to respect the residents' right to communicate confidently, receive visitors of their choice, and consult in private with any person without interference.

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Outdoor Visits

- We encourage all visits outdoors; they do not need to be scheduled
- Visitors **are not** required to wear a face covering outdoors

Indoor Visits

- Effective November 7, 2023, **passive screening and mandatory masking are in place**
- There is no requirement for proof of vaccination
- If the resident visited is in isolation, the visitors must wear the required Personal Protective Equipment and review the Public Health Ontario resources regarding hand washing, putting on and taking off PPE are provided in the appendix of this policy

NON-ADHERENCE BY VISITORS

Non-compliance with this policy could result in discontinuing visits for the non-compliant visitor.

Responding to non-adherence by visitors

First step:

- Verbal review of the information presented during initial and consequent education sessions, including demonstration as necessary, to facilitate understanding of requirements and adherence to the home's policy
- Provide the visitor with a copy of the home's visitor policy for an individual review
- Inform the visitor that if non-adherence continues, the visits could be temporarily prohibited

Second step:

- If non-adherence continues, visits will be ended temporarily; a reasonable length of prohibition will be provided
- The visitor has to agree to comply with this policy and review specific Public Health Ontario resources as applicable before returning home.

APPLICATION OF POLICY

All visitors to the home are required to follow public health measures such as passive screening, hand hygiene, and masking for source control for the duration of their visit.

Please review the following videos in preparation for your visit:

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- How to handwash video: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handwash>
- How to put on PPE video: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-on>
- How to remove PPE video: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-off>