



PEI Chief Public Health Office

Directive on Visitation to Long-Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes

Further to the Chief Public Health Officer's Public Health Order effective June 1, 2020, visitation to long-term care facilities and nursing homes is permitted under the direction established by the Chief Public Health Officer ("CPHO") below.

1. Visitation to long-term care facilities and nursing homes is permitted provided the facility takes the following preventative measures:
 - a) Designated Visitors may be designated by the resident or guardian in the following manner:
 - i) a maximum of 6 designated family/partner-in-care visitors per resident;
 - ii) must remain consistent unless one of the Designated Visitors is unable to perform their role for a period of time (e.g. in self-isolation, performing other caregiving duties, or is otherwise unable) in which case, a temporary replacement or a permanent replacement may be approved by the facility. If an alternate Designated Visitor is required, the facility will work with the family/partners in care/substitute decision-maker to ensure one is designated;
 - iii) may visit together or separately;
 - iv) at any one time, a maximum of 2 designated visitors are permitted indoors or outdoors, except in end of life situations (as addressed below).
 - b) Designated Visitors must comply with the following requirements:
 - i) must be screened for COVID-19 upon entry to the facility;
 - ii) must be asymptomatic of COVID-19;
 - iii) during outdoor visits, Designated Visitors must wear a non-medical mask, if physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) is not possible;
 - iv) during indoor visits, Designated Visitors must wear a medical grade mask;
 - v) cannot attend any COVID-19 care area of the facility when COVID-19 cases are present;
 - vi) cannot visit with a resident with COVID-19, regardless of the medical condition of the patient;
 - vii) if the Designated Visitor has travelled outside the Province in the last 14 days and is exempt from the requirement to self-isolate (e.g. persons approved to visit a dying family member or persons travelling within the Atlantic Provinces as of July 3, 2020) they must wear full personal protective equipment, i.e. gown, gloves and mask ("PPE").
 - c) Facilities must ensure that visits are:

- i) scheduled in advance;
 - ii) a maximum of one hour per visit during designated visiting times;
 - iii) occurring indoors or outdoors only in designated areas on the grounds of the facility;
 - iv) facilitated by staff or volunteers who will accompany visitors directly to the identified visiting space and provide PPE when necessary;
 - v) available only to Designated Visitors.
- d) Designated Visitors are not permitted entry in the following circumstances:
- i) If the visitor is symptomatic or has a diagnosis of COVID-19;
 - ii) If the visitor is required to self-isolate under a CPHO Order (e.g. has been outside of Atlantic Canada in the previous 14 days or is an essential worker that is required to self-isolate except when at work).
 - iii) If the resident is confirmed/suspected COVID-19 case.
2. Visitation to long-term care facilities and nursing homes is permitted for end of life situations provided the facility takes the following preventative measures:
- a) Visitation may occur indoors.
 - b) A maximum of 6 designated family/partner in care visitors per resident.
 - c) Only 2 of the 6 designated visitors may visit the resident at a time, except all 6 visitors may be present during the last hours of a resident's life. A member of the clergy may visit at the same time as the 2 designated visitors.
 - d) Subject to subsection (e), all visitors must wear a medical grade mask and maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet).
 - e) If visitors have travelled outside the Province in the last 14 days and are exempt from the requirement to self-isolate (e.g. persons approved to visit a dying family member or persons travelling within the Atlantic Provinces as of July 3, 2020) they must wear full PPE.
 - f) All visitors must be screened and symptomatic visitors must be restricted from entry.
 - g) Designated staff must accompany visitors directly to the identified visiting space and assist with provision of PPE when indicated.
 - h) All visitors will practice appropriate hand hygiene (in the facility) prior to visiting resident and prior to leaving the facility.
3. A health care practitioner in the facility may determine whether a resident is approaching the end of life and may use the Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) in making this assessment.
4. Community clergy and faith-based leaders may schedule an appointment to visit a resident; however, they must wear a medical mask when visiting residents indoors and a non-medical mask for outdoor visits where physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) cannot be maintained.

For greater certainty, community clergy and faith-based leaders are not included in the visitor limits set out above.

5. In exceptional circumstances, exemptions may be made to the restrictions in this Directive by a primary care physician or nurse practitioner at the facility who has been designated the authority to do so by the facility. Any exemption made by the designated primary care physician or nurse practitioner must be made in consultation with the facility administrator, and the facility administrator shall keep a record of all exemptions made under this Directive.



Dr. Heather Morrison
Chief Public Health Officer