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Long Term Care - Leaves of Absence

The Ministry of Long-term Care announced residents may now leave their home for ‘short stay’ leaves of absence and ‘temporary’ leaves of absence.

Fairview Parkwood Communities welcomes the opportunity to bring loved ones together. This announcement opens additional options, allowing for a more varied range of choices for families to see their loved ones.

Outdoor Visits

- Arrangements for outdoor visits can be made utilizing the on-line tool; all visits must be scheduled
- A COVID test does not need to be completed prior to the visit
- The following rules are in place: a face covering (including nose, mouth and chin) must be worn for the duration of the visit; you must pass active screening; practice social distancing
- Information package with detailed information and consequences of not following guidelines (no more visits, resident self-isolated) will be provided for visitors to review with each visit
- A maximum of two visitors; visits are a minimum of 30 minutes

Indoor Visits

- Arrangements for indoor visits can be made utilizing the on-line tool; all visits must be scheduled
- The visitor needs to attest they have a negative COVID test within two weeks of the visit
- The following rules are in place: a surgical mask (supplied by the home) must be worn for the duration of the visit; you must pass active screening; practice social distancing
- Information package with detailed information and consequences of not following guidelines (no more visits, resident self-isolated) will be provided for visitors to review with each visit
- A maximum of two visitors; visits are a minimum of 30 minutes

Short Stay Absences:

- Residents may leave the Community for short stay or temporary absence for both health care related, social visits and other reasons
- Does not include overnight visits
- Please contact the Charge Nurse 24 hours in advance to advise of your intention to take the resident out; the Charge Nurse will advise of information needed, for example, current physical ability, required medications etc.

Temporary Absences:

- Residents may leave the Community for one or more nights for personal reasons with approval from the home
- Please advise the Director of Care 48 hours in advance of the request
- The Home must approve all temporary absence; risk assessment will be utilized; if declined, you will be notified in writing
- On return, the resident will be required to self-isolate for 14 days

Virtual Visits

- To arrange a virtual visit, please contact reception
- The home will provide the technology to the resident and ensure you are connected at a pre-arranged time

Regardless of the type of visits, the following rules are in place:

- The long-term care home must NOT be in outbreak; when a community goes into outbreak, all visiting and absences end
- Residents must pass active screening every time they re-enter the community and attest they are not experiencing any of the typical or atypical symptoms of covid-19
- If the active screening is not passed, infection control protocols will be initiated and resident may be placed on 14-day isolation under contact and droplet precautions
- Residents must wear a surgical mask (if tolerated) when leaving the community

As a reminder, one positive test places the Home in outbreak, which suspends all short absences, visits and places affected residents into isolation.

While we support the new options for visiting, we are also well aware of the significant increase in risk. The virus continues to be active in the community and we understand how dangerous it can be for older adults and those with underlying health conditions.

We urge those who wish to leave for absences to be diligent with following infection control practices:

Communicate plans

- Inform the Home Area Charge Nurse of your plans 24 hours in advance, to ensure we are aware and can be prepared

Pick Up Your Loved One at the Front Door

- Please do not come into the community; a staff member will bring your loved one to you.
- If leaving the Community, please following the same guidelines as before the pandemic by signing out and providing a contact number

Contact Tracing Sheet

- Please complete the contact tracing sheet and keep it in a safe place, in case it is needed

Use a surgical mask

- Please remember, the mask should cover your nose and mouth and fit snug to your face
- We will provide anyone without a mask with one
- Residents must wear a surgical mask (if tolerated) when leaving the community

Wash your hands often

- Practice proper hand hygiene

Maintain Social Distancing

- Please continue to stay 2 metres from others
- Avoid large gatherings