



Yee Hong LTC Resident and Family Information Guide Admission, Transfer, and Absence of Residents during Pandemic

Yee Hong Centres

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September 19, 2022

PUPRPOSE

During the current pandemic, residents and staff in the Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) are at increased risk for exposure to COVID-19 and adverse outcomes associated with an exposure. The goal of this guidance document is to minimize the potential risks associated with the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, while balancing mitigating measures with the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of residents for their quality of life.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, this guide will be adjusted as necessary, keeping the safety and well-being of residents and staff at the forefront. Admission, transfer, and absence guidance change often based on Directives given by the Ministry and guidelines provided by the local public health unit region (York, Toronto, and Peel) in which a Yee Hong home is located.

Ontario is cautiously and gradually easing public health and workplace safety measures. In long-term care homes, many public health measures remain in place. Yee Hong's top priority is the health and safety of our seniors and staff.

All residents are allowed to go on day and overnight social absences regardless of their vaccination status. For **all absences**, residents will be:

- Provided with a medical mask when they are leaving the home
- Provided a handout that reminds residents and families to practice public health measures such as masking and hand hygiene when outside of the home
- actively screened upon their return to the home

There are 4 types of absences:

1. **Medical absences** are absences to seek medical and/or health care and include:
 - a. outpatient medical visits and a single visit (less than or equal to 24 hours in duration) to the Emergency Department
 - b. all other medical visits (for example, admissions or transfers to other health care facilities, multi-night stays in the Emergency Department)
2. **Compassionate and palliative absences** include, but are not limited to, absences for the purposes of visiting a dying loved one

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3. **Short term (day) absences** are absences that are less than or equal to 24 hours in duration. There are two types of short term (day) absences:
 - a. **essential absences** include absences for reasons of groceries, pharmacies, and outdoor physical activity
 - b. **social absences** include absences for all reasons not listed under medical, compassionate/palliative, and/or essential absences that do not include an overnight stay

4. **Temporary absences (overnight)** include absences involving two or more days and one or more nights for non-medical reasons

Resident who are on a contact and droplet precaution may not participate in essential, social, or temporary absences. Homes will seek the advice of local public health unit if self-isolation must be broken for these reasons. However, residents who are on a contact and droplet precaution can leave for medical, palliative or compassionate reasons. Health care facility will be notified if an isolated resident leaves the home for a medical absence, so that care can be provided to the resident with the appropriate additional precautions in place.

Testing of residents returning from day or overnight absences at established intervals will continue until further notice to identify as early as possible any individual who may become infected with COVID-19 in order to reduce transmission in the home.

Rapid Antigen Test is used for screening and any preliminary positive results will need to be confirmed with the PCR COVID-19 test.

In addition to the enhanced measures, all residents, staff and caregivers are strongly urged to get their COVID-19 vaccine up to date.

Up to Date COVID-19 vaccination for our residents mean that they have received all COVID-19 vaccine dose(s) as recommended by Health Canada.

Residents of Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Elder Care Lodges and older adults living in other congregate settings are recommended to receive two booster doses to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

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The first booster dose is recommended ≥ 3 months after the last dose of their primary COVID-19 vaccine series. The second booster dose is recommended ≥ 3 months after the first booster dose.

Requirements upon return/admission/transfer to home

- Day and Overnight Absences (medical, compassionate, or short term social or essential), upon return the resident will be:
 - Actively screened;
 - Rapid antigen test (RAT) and PCR test on day 5 following the absence. No isolation is required unless resident is showing symptoms or a positive result is received. If a timely PCR test is not available, 2 RATs 24 hours apart may be used as an alternative.
 - Residents that go on absences on a daily or frequent basis are to have a laboratory-based PCR test and rapid antigen test, on the same day, two times per week (for example, PCR and rapid test on Tuesday; and PCR and rapid antigen test on Friday).
 - If tolerated, resident will be encouraged to will wear a mask in common areas.
 - If a resident has a known exposure to a case or symptomatic person while on their absence, they may be treated as a high-risk contact which would require:
 - residents that are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines are to isolate until a PCR test from day 5 is negative.
 - residents who are not up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines are to isolate for 10 days with a PCR test on day 5.

- **For admissions/re-admission:**
 - All residents who are being admitted or transferred to a home must undergo screening regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status.
 - If the resident is coming from another LTCH, RH, or a health care facility that is NOT experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak at the time of transfer: A

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COVID-19 molecular test is required on day 5. The resident is not required to isolate if they pass screening and are asymptomatic.

- If the resident is coming from another health care facility is on outbreak:
 - The resident will be monitored for symptoms and no isolation required if the resident has recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days;
 - Isolate resident until a negative PRC test taken on day 5 from last exposure received, if resident has been exposed to COVID-19 prior to admission.
 - Monitor for symptoms and a PRC and Rapid Antigen test prior to admission or on arrival and on day 5 are required, if the resident has not been exposed to COVID-19.

If the resident is coming from the community: PCR and Rapid Antigen test are required 24 hours and on day 5, and the resident will be placed in additional precaution until negative day 0 test result received-

Note: Residents who have been COVID-19 positive in the past 90 days may not be required to undergo testing and quarantine requirements when returning from an absence unless they have symptoms of COVID-19.

*Assuming hospital is not in outbreak, resident is not symptomatic and/or had been exposed to COVID-19. If the hospital is in outbreak the PHU will advise on testing and quarantine requirements.

Infection Prevention and Control best practices for residents and family members during absence.



Clean your hands. Clean your hands using hand sanitizer, rubbing thoroughly over all areas of your hands



Wear a mask. Wear masks if tolerated when visiting others.



You MUST avoid high-risk activities. Avoid any high-risk activities such as large gatherings or contacting people with any COVID-19 symptoms during absence.



You MUST maintain physical distance. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated residents and families must maintain physical distance except for a brief hug during the visit.

We thank you for your cooperation.

How to handwash

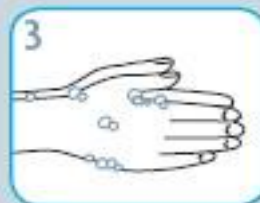
Lather hands for 15 seconds



1 Wet hands with warm water.



2 Apply soap.



3 Lather soap and rub hands palm to palm.



4 Rub in between and around fingers.

Lather hands for 15 seconds



5 Rub back of each hand with palm of other hand.



6 Rub fingertips of each hand in opposite palm.



7 Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hand.



8 Rinse thoroughly under running water.



9 Pat hands dry with paper towel.



10 Turn off water using paper towel.



11 Your hands are now safe.



**JUST CLEAN
YOUR HANDS**

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HOW TO WEAR A SURGICAL MASK



WASH YOUR HANDS
BEFORE
WEARING A MASK



ENSURE THE PROPER
SIDE OF THE MASK
FACES OUTWARDS



LOCATE THE METALLIC
STRIP AND PLACE IT
ON THE NOSE BRIDGE



SECURE THE STRINGS
BEHIND YOUR HEAD
OR OVER YOUR EARS



COVER MOUTH
AND NOSE FULLY
MAKING SURE THERE
ARE NO GAPS



PRESS THE METALLIC
STRIP TO FIT THE SHAPE
OF THE NOSE



REMOVE THE MASK
FROM BEHIND BY
HOLDING THE STRINGS
WITH CLEAN HANDS



DISPOSE THE MASK IN
A CLOSED BIN WITHOUT
TOUCHING THE FRONT



SURGICAL MASK
PLACED CORRECTLY



DO NOT TOUCH THE
MASK WHILE USING IT,
IF YOU DO
WASH YOUR HANDS



REPLACE THE MASK
IF IT GETS DAMP
AND DO NOT REUSE IT