

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

February 10, 2022

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### **In Home Visits Requirements Update**

Effective February 14, 2022 Community Living Mississauga is pleased to share that families and friends are once again welcome to visit their family member / friend in their home without the ongoing support of a support worker allowing everyone to enjoy time together in private. This of course will not be an option should there be an active outbreak.

As a result, it should also be noted that there are some additional required safeguards that have been mandated by the The Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services and they have been added (in bold red text). It is important that the information contained in this communication is carefully reviewed.

On December 24, 2021 The Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services implemented an Interim Directive to further safeguard the people who live in 24 hour residential support locations and their support staff. As people resume visits in their homes, these new directives will continue to be in place.

**A family member/friend who wishes to visit in a person's home will be required to take a Rapid Antigen test prior to visiting with their family member/friend.**

**This will be part of the screening process required upon entering the home and tests will be provided for visitors at the door. Additional screening questions will also be asked as part of the screening process.**

**All other measures such as proof of vaccination as previously communicated will remain in place.**

**Additionally, all people who visit with family or friends overnight will be required to have a Rapid Antigen test based on a schedule as previously communicated and outlined below.**

The following information highlighted in yellow below has been updated to reflect these additional measures.

## **In Home Visits**

In order to facilitate in home visits and overnight visits, we have established the following expectations based on directives from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. We trust you will understand these expectations have been put in place to ensure the ongoing health and safety of all.

**It is important to note that everyone is required to adhere to the following required expectations at all times. If this does not occur, the visit will be ended and may impact future visits until all restrictions have been lifted.**

### **The following details outline Community Living Mississauga's in home family visit requirements:**

- All families/friends will be screened prior to visits as per identified screening procedures:
  - Screening questionnaire/temperature checks
- There can be no more than 2 family members present or 2 friends present for a visit.
- Visits from multiple families at the same time cannot be accommodated. Only one person will be able to host a family or friend at any given time.
- We will do everything we can to ensure all visits can occur as planned however, there may be circumstances due to staffing or support requirements in the home where we will have to ask that visitors be flexible and work with the support staff to change or delay a visit. We may also have to limit visits to once per week in order to accommodate all people and their families.
- The home where your family member/friend lives must have no active COVID-19 cases and all people who live at the home must be in good health. If anyone is ill no visits will occur.
- A designated time for the visit must be arranged with the support staff at the home.
- Your family member/friend will be supported for the duration of all visits by a support worker.
- Families, friends and people who receive support will follow all current Public Health recommendations in regard to health & safety practices related to COVID-19.
- Please note that there may be extenuating circumstances due to individual risk factors that may require discussion in order to ensure and facilitate that everyone is able to follow safe practices during visits. These will be addressed with families and friends on an individual basis as required.

## **Guidelines for In Home Visits and Arrangements:**

- The home where your family member / friend lives must have no active COVID-19 cases and all people who live at the home must be in good health and if anyone is ill no visits will occur.
- Families/friends will be required to complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire prior to visiting their family member/friend as identified below.
  - Do you have **one** of the following symptoms: fever/and or onset of cough or difficulty breathing?  
OR
  - Do you have **ANY** of the following symptoms: chills, fatigue, **lethargy, malaise**, headache, sore throat, runny nose, stuffy or congested nose, lost sense of taste or smell, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing, digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain), **muscle aches, joint pain, conjunctivitis (pink eye), decreased or lack of appetite?**
  - Have you been in direct contact with anyone who has COVID-19?
- If any of the responses to these questions are **yes** the visit will be cancelled.
- You will also be asked if you have reviewed the expectations of the visit and if you are willing to follow these expectations. If you are not willing or able to do so the visit will be cancelled.
- You will also be asked:
  - If you have travelled outside the province of Ontario, have you followed all Provincial travel guidelines?
  - Are you aware of the recommendations and restrictions in this community regarding gathering size, hand and respiratory hygiene and the use of face coverings and masks?
  - Have you been consistently following these recommendations and restrictions?
- If you respond **no** to these questions the visit will be cancelled.
- The visitor(s) will also be required to have temperature checks **and complete a Rapid Antigen test as part of the screening process. If the result of the test is positive the visit will be cancelled and the visitor will be asked to leave the home immediately and follow Public Health guidelines**
- Everyone will wear a surgical mask provided by Community Living Mississauga. Face shields also provided by Community Living Mississauga should be worn if indoors and /or social distancing is not possible (2 metres) during in home visits. These will be provided when you arrive for your visit.  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-maskeyes-on>
- Masks must be worn correctly, they should be secured properly, covering nose, mouth and chin area at all times. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qilLP\\_UnaHg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qilLP_UnaHg)
- Masks and a face shield will also be provided to the person for personal use if tolerated.
- A designated time for the visit must be arranged with the support staff at the home.

- Visitors will be required to access the home when they arrive for a planned visit and proceed to the designated area of the home where the person can meet them.
- Access to other parts of the home including washrooms will not be permitted at this time.
- Social distancing is required, visitors must maintain a minimum of 2 metres (6 feet) physical distance from the family member and support staff at all times. Brief physical contact (a hug) is permitted. Otherwise, everyone must practice social distancing at all times and assist the person to do the same.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices must be followed prior to and during the visit. Wash/sanitize hands regularly. Sneeze and cough into your sleeve. If you use a tissue, discard immediately and wash/sanitize your hands afterwards. Avoid high-touch areas, where possible, or ensure you clean your hands after.
- Any non-adherence to these expectations will be the basis for the discontinuation of visits.

### **Overnight Visits**

In order to facilitate overnight visits, we have established the following expectations based on directives from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. Again, we trust you will understand these expectations have been put in place to ensure the ongoing health and safety of all.

**It is important to note that everyone is required to adhere to the following required expectations. If this does not occur this may impact future visits until all restrictions have been lifted.**

**The following details outline Community Living Mississauga's overnight family visit requirements:**

- All families/friends will be screened for COVID-19 prior to and after visits as per identified screening questionnaire/temperature check
- Upon return the person must pass an active screening questionnaire that screens for signs and symptoms of and potential exposure to COVID-19 more specifically:
  - If partially or non- immunized: 14 day precautions or until negative PCR test is received
- **The person must also complete a Rapid Antigen Test following overnight visits as follows:**
- **Should someone be gone for an overnight visit 2 nights or less- Rapid Antigen Testing for the person who receives support will occur (as tolerated) on day three and day seven from the day the person left their own home.**
- **Should someone be gone for an overnight visit 3 nights or more- Rapid Antigen Testing for the person who receives support (as tolerated) will occur on the day of return and day four following return to their own home.**

- If the person does not pass the active screening process upon his/her return **or the Rapid Antigen test is positive**, Community Living Mississauga will implement the procedures for a suspected, presumed or confirmed case of COVID-19. These procedures will be implemented within 24 hours, isolation, visitor restrictions and precautions will be implemented as per Public Health Guidelines.
- **The person will be required to isolate & wear a mask as tolerated.**
- **10 to 14** day precautions include:
  - Monitor for symptoms
  - Avoid using common areas; however, if a common area cannot be avoided, the person must use a surgical/procedure mask if tolerated.
  - Limit contact with others
  - Only participate in group activities if physical distancing is maintained (e.g. 2 metres) and a surgical/procedure mask is used for the duration of the activity.
  - Practice proper hand hygiene by washing their hands often (using soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer).

### **Guidelines for Overnight Visits and Arrangements:**

- The home where your family member/friend lives must have no active COVID-19 cases and all people who live at the home must be in good health and if anyone is ill no visits will occur.
- Families/friends will be required to complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire prior to picking up & dropping the individual off at their home as per below.
  - Do you have **one** of the following symptoms: fever/and or onset of cough or difficulty breathing?  
OR
  - Do you have **ANY** of the following symptoms: chills, fatigue, **lethargy, malaise**, headache, sore throat, runny nose, stuffy or congested nose, lost sense of taste or smell, hoarse voice, difficulty swallowing, digestive issues (nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain) **muscle aches, joint pain, conjunctivitis (pink eye), decreased or lack of appetite?**
  - Have you been in direct contact with anyone who has COVID-19?
- If any of the responses to these questions are **yes** prior to the visit the visit will be cancelled.
- You will also be asked if you have reviewed the expectations of the visit and if you are willing to follow these expectations. If you are not willing or able to do so the visit will be cancelled.
- You will also be asked:
  - If you have travelled outside the province of Ontario, have you followed all Provincial travel guidelines?

- Are you aware of the recommendations and restrictions in this community regarding gathering size, hand and respiratory hygiene and the use of face coverings and masks?
- Have you been consistently following these recommendations and restrictions?
- If you respond **no** to these questions the visit will be cancelled.
- A designated time for the visit must be arranged with the support staff at the home.
- Visitors will be required to call the home when they arrive to pick up their family member /friend to advise the person and support worker that they have arrived so the person can meet their family member/friend at the front door. If families or friends enter the person's home they must follow the guidelines above for in home visits.
  - Visitors will also be expected to call the home when they are dropping their family member or friend off after the visit so support staff can meet the person at the door. If families or friends enter the person's home they must follow the guidelines above for in home visits
  - Masks and a face shield will be provided to the person for personal use. Masks and face shields must be worn correctly, they should be secured properly, covering nose, mouth and chin area at all times.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qilLP\\_UnaHg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qilLP_UnaHg)
- <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-maskeyes-on>
- Any non-adherence to these expectations will be the basis for the discontinuation of visits.

### **Backyard/Outdoor Visits**

- Visitors may choose not to mask or maintain physical distance if all parties are fully immunized.
- Visitors may choose not to mask while maintaining physical distance regardless of immunization status.

We sincerely thank you for your patience and understanding and remain grateful for your ongoing support! Adhering to Public Health directives remains essential to maintaining and building-upon the success we have all worked so hard to achieve.

Please continue to visit [www.clmiss.ca](http://www.clmiss.ca) for the latest updates and information