



New Guidelines for Essential Caregivers

COVID-19 Update 12.0 – September 21, 2020

Dear Families & Friends,

Further to my recent communications on Resident outings, following the recent expansion of visitor guidelines by the Ministry of Long-Term Care, I am pleased to advise you of our new **Essential Caregiver Program** taking effect Monday September 28, 2020.

Understanding the important role you play in supporting the health and wellness of our residents, we have conducted a very careful and thoughtful review of our procedures to support Residents and/or their Substitute Decision Makers (SDM) in designating a “caregiver” as a type of essential visitor for residents in our long-term care and retirement homes.

This new program will enable residents to receive direct care from designated persons such as family members, hired caregivers, paid companions, and translators. The caregiver must be at least 18 years of age. Given the increasing rates of COVID in our communities, we remain cautious and will be phasing in this new program beginning with the implementation of a maximum of one caregiver per Resident as requested.

Essential “caregivers” can be designated by the Resident or their SDM to provide support with:

- Feeding, Mobility & Personal Hygiene;
- Cognitive Stimulation & Communication; and
- Meaningful Connection, Relational Continuity & Decision-making.

I have included the guidelines for this new program below for your quick reference. We continue to extend our thanks and appreciation to you for your patience and support as we work hard to ensure our policies balance our efforts to protect your loved ones while creating opportunities for you to provide such valuable support to our residents.

NOTE: All Homes will continue to offer Supervised Indoor, Outdoor and Window visits as part of our “General Visitor Program”. These require physical distancing of 6 feet and must also be booked with staff in advance.

1. ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER PROGRAM

As indicated by the province of Ontario, residents are now permitted to designate essential caregivers from whom they can receive visits to provide direct care. The following criteria must be met to provide support under this new program:

New* Required Precautions

a) Designation Made in Writing:

Residents and/or Substitute Decision Makers wishing to designate a “caregiver” under

this program must complete and submit the appropriate form in writing, to the Home. Please contact a member of the Home’s management team for access to this new form.

b) Caregiver – Self Screening:

All designated caregivers must self-screen for COVID-19 prior to arriving at the facility. If the caregiver fails the self-screen, they may not attend the home. The “self-screening” tool will be provided to all essential caregivers as part of an information package.

c) Caregiver – Active Screening:

Active screening of all designated caregivers will take place upon arrival at the Home before they are permitted access into the facility.

d) Caregiver Access Restrictions:

Caregivers must only provide direct care to the individual resident who they have been designated for. This will be strictly enforced and failure to adhere may result in the discontinuation of this designation.

e) COVID-19 Testing Requirements:

- i) **Designated Caregivers** – Must participate in regular COVID-19 testing every two (2) weeks and must have tested negative within the past 14-days.
- ii) **Residents** – Receiving care from a designated “caregiver” must receive regular COVID-19 testing every two (2) weeks.

f) Declaration Form / Information Packages

Caregivers will be provided with a COVID-19 information package and they must sign a declaration form agreeing to adhere to these requirements when providing direct care.

g) Infection Prevention Measures

Caregivers will be provided a surgical mask and (PPE) when arriving in the Home. The following precautions must be strictly adhered to while providing care to the resident:

- i. Wear a mask and required PPE at all times when with the resident;
- ii. Maintain physical distancing of 2 meters whenever possible;
- iii. Wash your hands well and often; and
- iv. Ensure good respiratory practices such as coughing into your sleeve and not hands.

Reminder...

Town Halls will be held as noted below. Sunset Manor families may attend an additional session listed below by contacting sharon.youell@simcoe.ca if they have further questions.

Facilities	Date	Time
Georgian Manor & Georgian Residences	September 29	10:00am – 11:00am
Simcoe Manor	September 24	1:00pm – 2:00pm
Trillium Manor	September 30	2:00pm – 3:00pm

Sincerely,

Jane