



Updated Guidelines for Resident Outings

COVID-19 Update 11.0 – September 21, 2020

Dear Families & Friends,

Further to my update on new guidelines for Resident Outings in our long-term care and retirement homes, we have continued to see an increase in COVID-19 infection rates and more restrictions initiated across the province in an effort to once again, flatten the curve. In addition, we have received growing concerns from family members requesting we apply further measures to protect their loved ones regarding resident absences from the home.

After further review and careful consideration of our changing landscape, the County has modified our precautions regarding “day trips” or outings with family and friends to include some additional safeguards to prevent potential exposure of COVID in our facilities. For those families and friends choosing to visit their loved ones for an “outing” and remain on the facility property, we will continue to require the visitor to wear a mask during the visit and to confirm a negative COVID test within the previous 14-day period.

However, given the increased presence of COVID in our communities, should a resident attend a day trip off the property into the surrounding community, upon return, the resident will be placed in isolation precautions in their room and be tested for COVID 72 hours after returning to the home. Once staff receive a negative test result, the resident will then be able to resume activity on their care unit.

I have included the updated guidelines below and have noted the new provisions for your quick reference. We thank you in advance for your continued commitment to these safety precautions to help protect your loved one. These new guidelines will take affect this week.

COVID-19 UPDATES

1. DAY TRIPS & OUTINGS: ON PROPERTY & OFF-SITE

As indicated by the province of Ontario, residents may now leave the home for a short stay absence for health care-related, social, or other reasons. **Should you wish to take your loved one out on a day trip or outing, please contact the RPN to schedule this outing in advance.** The following criteria must be met to facilitate these short stay absences:

Required Precautions:

a) Self Screening:

All family members or friends must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to picking up the resident. If you fail the self-screen, we ask that you reschedule the outing.

b) COVID-19 Testing Requirements:

- i) **Family Members/Friends** – The person taking the resident out must show evidence that they have tested negative for COVID-19 within the past 14-days.
- ii) **Residents** – Residents attending short stay absences:
 - **On site:** will participate in the routine testing at the Home and be included on the next round of testing after the outing;
 - **Off-site:** will be isolated, tested in 72 hours and removed from isolation once negative result received.

c) Declaration Form / Information Packages

Individuals taking a resident out on a day trip or outing will be provided an information package with the Home’s COVID-19 policies and precautions and they must complete a declaration form agreeing to adhere to these requirements during the resident outing.

d) Infection Prevention Measures

The resident will be provided a surgical mask prior to leaving the Home. During these absences, we need your help by adhering to the following precautions:

- i. Wear a face covering (mask) at all times when with the resident;
- ii. Ensure the resident wears a mask when physical distancing cannot be maintained and when in public facilities;
- iii. Maintain physical distancing of 2 meters whenever possible;
- iv. Wash your hands well and often; and
- v. Ensure good respiratory practices such as coughing into your sleeve and not hands.

New* Required Precautions

Mandatory Isolation Requirements:

For residents attending a day trip/outing off of the property, in order to confirm the resident did not contract COVID-19 during this temporary absence, the Resident will be placed in isolation upon return and tested for COVID in 72 hours. Once staff confirm the resident test is negative, the resident may resume normal activities.

2. OVERNIGHT STAY – TEMPORARY ABSENCES FOR ONE OR MORE NIGHTS

In addition to day trips/outings, residents may now leave the home for temporary absences of one or more nights for personal reasons. Should you need to take your loved one out overnight, please contact the home to discuss the details.

Required Precautions:

All requests for absences must be reviewed and approved by Management. Requests will be assessed on a case by case risk assessment basis considering but not limited to the following:

a) Self-isolation:

The Home must be able to support self-isolation for 14 days upon the resident’s return, including the resident’s ability to adhere to isolation requirements;

b) Compliance:

The resident’s ability to comply with local and provincial policies and bylaws; such as keeping PPE on, washing hands, and maintaining physical distancing;

c) Local Disease Transmission & Activity:

Increased COVID-19 infections in the local community will be considered in consultation with the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit;

d) Planned Activities:

The Home will review risks associated with the planned activities that will be undertaken by the resident while out of the Home. (i.e. Family weekend versus large gatherings)

e) COVID-19 Testing Requirements

- i. **Family Members/Friends** – The individual who is taking the resident out will be required to have tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous 14-day period prior to the outing and will show the Home evidence of the test results; and
- ii. **Residents** – The resident will be required to be tested for COVID-19, 72 hours upon return from the temporary absence.

f) Mandatory Isolation Requirements

In order to confirm the resident did not contract the COVID-19 virus while on a temporary absence, the Resident will be placed in isolation for 14 days.

g) Declaration Forms

A declaration form outlining the requirements and protocols will be reviewed and signed prior to the resident leaving the facility.

h) Infection Prevention Measures

The resident will be provided a surgical mask prior to leaving the Home. During these absences, we need your help by adhering to the following precautions:

- vi. Wear a face covering (mask) at all times when with the resident;
- vii. Ensure the resident wears a mask when physical distancing cannot be maintained and when in public facilities;
- viii. Maintain physical distancing of 2 meters when possible;
- ix. Wash your hands well and often; and
- x. Ensure good respiratory practices such as coughing into your sleeve and not hands.

Next Steps...

To help answer questions, we are continuing with our next series of Town Hall Sessions noted below. Zoom details will be sent out prior to these dates. As Sunset Manor has just held a recent session, these families may contact sharon.youell@simcoe.ca to attend one of the upcoming sessions at our other locations 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