



MEMORANDUM

To: All Employees

From: Mark Beazley, Director of Community Services

Date: January 17, 2022

Re: Visits

The Ministry has come out with some guidelines for visits at the home or away from the home. Communication is key when someone leaves the home to educate and remind people to follow the Public Health Measures for indoor and outdoor gatherings. Please make sure we are following these measures.

Below are the guidelines for visiting and overnight stays for individuals.

Face-to-face, in person interactions between essential visitors and the people supported in our congregate settings play a key role in providing physical, emotional and cognitive support to residents and in maintaining their health and well-being.

- Essential visits will continue to be permitted indoors and outdoors.
 - This includes a parent/guardian, another family member or other person recognized as providing essential support to the setting and/or are necessary to maintain the health, wellness, and safety, or any applicable legal rights of a congregate living resident.
- Per the existing MCCSS guidance, essential visitors are to be actively screened, including rapid antigen testing before being allowed entry into the setting, and must wear appropriate PPE for the duration of their visit.

The Ministry also recognizes, consistent with the announcements of January 3 moving the province into a modified Step 2 with time-limited measures to help blunt transmission, suspension of non-essential visits are appropriate measures at this time.

- All non-essential indoor and outdoor visits are suspended.

Overnight Visits

- **For overnight absences of 2 nights or less:** Rapid antigen screening should occur on day three and day seven from the day the resident left the setting.
 - **For overnight absences of 3 nights or more:** Rapid antigen screening should occur on the day of return (as part of active screening upon entry) and day four following their return.
 - If the resident leaves for a subsequent overnight absence within those 7 days, a new 7-day period should be started when they return to the CLS.
 - A resident who receives a positive result on a rapid antigen test should be given a medical (surgical/procedure) mask to wear, unless they are subject to a masking exemption (see masking section) and directed to a designated space away from other residents where they can self-isolate and wait for arrangements to be made for a confirmatory PCR test. (See COVID-19 Guidance for MCCSS-funded and Licensed Congregate Living Settings November 2021- Caring for Individuals Who Need to Self-Isolate).
- Make rapid antigen screening available for residents who return to a CLS (regardless of vaccination status) from an overnight absence. **For clarity, it is not a mandatory requirement that returning residents undertake the test.** However, service providers are strongly encouraged to promote the use of rapid antigen screening by returning residents as a measure to help protect others in the CLS.

Thank you for all the work you are doing, please reach out to me with any questions regarding this directive.

Thanks Mark