

Bruyère Long-Term Care Absences Policy

October 14, 2022

Preamble

There is an ongoing need to protect long-term care (LTC) home residents and staff from the risk of COVID-19, particularly due to variants of concern and as LTC home residents are more susceptible to infection from COVID-19 than the general population due to their age and medical condition. Rules for LTC home absences/outings continue to be in place to protect the health and safety of residents, staff and visitors, while supporting residents in receiving the care they need as well as maintaining their emotional well-being.

This policy is subject to change at any time depending on the directives of Ottawa Public Health or the Ministry Long-Term Care (MLTC).

This policy has been edited following the Ministry's updated directives in effect as of **October 14, 2022**. These measures have been implemented to balance the need to protect against the risk of COVID-19, and support residents in receiving the care they need, including maintaining their physical and emotional well-being.

Types of Absences

- a) Medical absences are absences to seek medical and/or health care. They can consist of an outpatient medical visits or visit to Emergency Department that spans no more than one overnight (i.e.: returning the day after leaving home). Other longer medical visits (e.g., admissions/transfers to other health care facilities, multi-night stays in the Emergency Department) are treated as <readmissions> and require testing and isolation (if applicable) upon return.
- b) Compassionate/palliative absences include, but are not limited to, absences for the purposes of visiting a dying loved one.
- c) Short (day) essential absences are absences that are less than or equal to 24 hours in duration and include absences for reasons of groceries, pharmacies, and outdoor physical activity (e.g., walking in the neighbouring streets).
- d) Short (day) social absences are absences that are less than or equal to 24 hours in duration and
 - include absences for all reasons not listed under medical, compassionate/palliative, and/or essential absences that do not include an overnight stay.
- e) Temporary absences include absences involving two or more days and one or more nights for non-medical reasons

Requirements for absences

	Medical/Compassionate/ Short (day) Essential absences	Short (day) Social Absences	Temporary Absences
Screening upon departure	The person picking up the resident (if applicable) must be actively screened (through screening) and is strongly encouraged to undergo a rapid antigen test, especially if they have two or less doses of vaccine (not boosted). The person picking up the resident (or capable resident)	The person picking up the resident (if applicable) must be actively screened (through screening) and is strongly encouraged to undergo a rapid antigen test. The individuals in contact with the resident should be vaccinated and boosted (3rd or 4th dose).	The person picking up the resident (if applicable) must be actively screened (through screening) and is strongly encouraged to undergo a rapid antigen test. The individuals in contact with the resident should be vaccinated and boosted (3rd or 4th dose) The person picking up the resident (or capable resident)

	must sign the 'sign out – sign in' log at screening and must review and commit to respect the 'Staying Safe in the Community' guidelines.	The person picking up the resident (or capable resident) must sign the 'sign out – sign in' log at screening and must review and commit to respect the 'Staying Safe in the Community' guidelines.	must sign the 'sign out – sign in' log at screening and must review and commit to respect the 'Staying Safe in the Community' guidelines.
Screening upon return	<p>Resident must be actively screened upon their return to the home.</p> <p>The person picking up the resident (or capable resident) must sign the 'sign out – sign in' log at screening and must acknowledge that they respected the 'Staying Safe in the Community' guidelines.</p>	<p>Resident must be actively screened upon their return to the home.</p> <p>The person picking up the resident (or capable resident) must sign the 'sign out – sign in' log at screening and must acknowledge that they respected the 'Staying Safe in the Community' guidelines.</p>	<p>Resident must be actively screened upon their return to the home.</p> <p>The person picking up the resident (or capable resident) must sign the 'sign out – sign in' log at screening and must acknowledge that they respected the 'Staying Safe in the Community' guidelines.</p>
Testing and isolation upon return	<p>Resident is actively screened upon return.</p> <p>Residents are isolated and tested if they develop symptoms.</p> <p>If the resident has a known exposure to a case during their absence, the infection prevention and control team will review the need for isolation and testing on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Resident is actively screened upon return.</p> <p>Residents are isolated and tested if they develop symptoms.</p> <p>If the resident has a known exposure to a case during their absence, the infection prevention and control team will review the need for isolation and testing on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Resident is actively screened upon return.</p> <p>Residents are isolated and tested if they develop symptoms.</p> <p>If the resident has a known exposure to a case during their absence, the infection prevention and control team will review the need for isolation and testing on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Resident on isolation or home area on outbreak	<p>Medical or compassionate absences permitted but external medical provider should be consulted and notified (if applicable).</p> <p>Essential short absences are NOT permitted during outbreak or when resident on isolation.</p>	Not permitted	Not permitted
Resident vaccination status	All residents permitted	All residents permitted	All residents permitted
Mask and infection control reminders	Residents will be provided with a mask (as tolerated) and reminded to follow public health measures, such as physical distancing and hand hygiene, while they are away from the home.	Residents will be provided with a mask (as tolerated) and reminded to follow public health measures, such as physical distancing and hand hygiene, only being in contact with individuals who are vaccinated and boosted (3rd	Residents will be provided with a mask (as tolerated) and reminded to follow public health measures, such as physical distancing and hand hygiene, only being in contact with individuals who are vaccinated and boosted (3rd or

		or 4th dose) while they are away from the home.	4th dose) while they are away from the home.
Timing	We ask that the resident return by 8 p.m. (where possible).	We ask that the resident return by 8 p.m. (where possible).	We ask that the resident return by 8 p.m. (where possible).
Frequency	As required	As required	As required
Approval Required	No approval required, but please notify nursing ahead of time, and screeners upon exit.	No approval required, but please notify nursing ahead of time, and screeners upon exit.	No approval required, but please notify nursing ahead of time, and screeners upon exit.