

Bruyère Long-Term Care Absences Policy March 31, 2023

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 **March 31, 2023**. 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	No active screening upon departure.	No active screening upon departure.	No active screening upon departure.
Screening upon return	No active screening upon return. Residents are to notify the nurse of any symptoms or known exposures upon their return.	No active screening upon return. Daily monitoring of residents for signs of infection ongoing Residents are to notify the nurse of any symptoms or	No active screening upon return. Daily monitoring of residents for signs of infection ongoing Residents are to notify the nurse of any symptoms or

	Daily monitoring of residents for signs of infection ongoing.	known exposures upon their return.	known exposures upon their return.
Testing and isolation upon return	Residents are isolated and tested only if they develop symptoms. 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.	Residents are isolated and tested only if they develop symptoms. 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.	Residents are isolated and tested only if they develop symptoms. 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.
Resident on isolation or home area on outbreak	Medical or compassionate absences permitted but external medical provider should be consulted and notified (if applicable) so that appropriate care and precautions can be put in place. Essential short absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis, dependent on input from public health.	Residents who are in isolation may not participate in essential, social or temporary absences. During outbreaks, case by case, dependent on input from public health	Residents who are in isolation may not participate in essential, social or temporary absences. During outbreaks, case by case, dependent on input from public health
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 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 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.	No approval required, but please notify nursing ahead of time.	No approval required, but please notify nursing ahead of time.

Off-site group excursions

Off-site group excursions (for example, to an attraction) are considered social absences and are permitted.

For all off-site group excursions, residents must be:

- provided with a medical mask when they are leaving the home.

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- reminded to practice public health measures such as masking and hand hygiene when outside of the home.
- following testing and isolation rules under isolation and testing requirements for residents when returning from absences, where applicable.