



Regional Municipality of Durham
 Social Services Department
 Long Term Care (LTC) and Services for Seniors

Title: Visitation to Long-Term Care Home	
Policy #: IC-05-13-04	
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Peer Group Approval:021	Date:
Also reviewed by:	
Senior Leadership Approval: <i>Laura MacDermaid</i>	Date: April 3, 2023

1. Policy

- 1.1. The Region of Durham Long-Term Care homes (LTCHs) will provide an organized process to allow for safe and secure visits to our homes.
- 1.2. All visitors will have access to information and education through the home Infection Prevention and Control practitioner (IPAC) about physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, infection prevention and control (IPAC) practices, and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Visitors can ask for this information at reception.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. To ensure there is a safe and organized process for those who visit residents in the Region of Durham LTCHs.
- 2.2. To provide meaningful, equitable, flexible, and safe access to visits for all residents to support their emotional wellbeing.

3. Definitions

3.1. General Visitor

- A. A person who is visiting a resident within the home:
 - (1) To provide non-essential services, who may or may not be hired by the home or the resident and/or the Substitute Decision Maker (SDM).
 - (2) For social reasons.

3.2. Essential Visitor

- A. Must meet the definition outlined in Directive #3.
- B. A person performing essential support services (e.g., inspector, external health service provider, contractor).
- C. Essential Visitors are divided into:
 - (1) **Support Worker:**
 - (a) A visitor who is performing an essential support service for the resident or the home e.g., physicians, footcare, etc. They cannot be staff of the LTCH as defined in the Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 (FLTCA, 2021).
 - (b) Support workers are regulated and unregulated.
 - (2) **Essential Caregiver (EC)**
 - (a) Someone who is designated by the resident and/or the resident's SDM and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident (e.g., eating assistance, mobility, cognitive stimulation, communication, and assistance in decision-making).
 - (3) **Other Essential Visitors**
 - (a) Government Inspectors and those visiting very ill or palliative residents.

3.3. **Non-Visitor**

- A. LTCH staff, volunteers, and placement students are not considered visitors.
Access to the home will be determined by the Long-Term Care and Services for Seniors (LTC and SS) Division.

4. **Procedure**

4.1. **Visitors**

- A. There will be no limits on the number of individuals permitted for indoor visits. The home may restrict the number of visitors per resident based on the available indoor space.
- B. No general visitors are permitted to visit in any of the following situations:
 - (1) As per direction set out by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) or Durham Region Public Health (DRPH).
 - (2) The home is in outbreak. If only a portion of the home is in outbreak, residents in areas unaffected by that outbreak may still have visitors both indoors and outdoors.
 - (3) The resident is self-isolating or symptomatic.
- C. Essential Visitors will be permitted in the home during a home wide outbreak. There is no limit on the number of Essential Visitors a resident may have.
- D. Visitors will:
 - (1) When requested, be provided with information on IPAC practices.
 - (2) Adhere to the Visitor Code of Conduct (see Appendix 2).
- E. Indoor visitors will be provided with a surgical/procedure mask to wear in the home.
- F. Although strongly discouraged, the visitor may remove their mask if visiting alone in the resident's room.

- G. Pets will be allowed to visit in a home area that is not in outbreak if they are registered with the home.
- H. Homes will maintain a visitor log which must be kept for 30 days.

4.2. **Outdoor Visits**

- A. There will be no limits on the number of individuals permitted at outdoor visits.
- B. Visitors are not required to wear masks when visiting outdoors.

4.3. **Education and Information**

- A. All visitors and staff will have access to the following information and education. Information how to access is provided at reception or from Infection Control.

- (1) [Recommended steps to putting on personal protective equipment guidance](#)
- (2) [Putting on personal protective equipment video](#)
- (3) [Taking off personal protective equipment video](#)
- (4) How to [hand wash](#) and [hand rub](#).

4.4. **Non-Compliance with Visitor Guidelines (See Appendix 1)**

- A. Staff will refer any visitor who does not comply with the visitor guidelines to a manager/supervisor and follow the process outlined.
- B. Assist the visitor to understand the importance of complying with the visiting guidelines.
- C. If a visitor has been temporarily prohibited from visiting, clearly identify the reasons why and identify the requirements that the visitor would have to meet for visits to be resumed.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1. **Nursing will:**

- A. Ensure that General Visitors and Essential Caregivers do not remove their masks except if visiting alone in a resident room.

5.2. **IPAC Practitioner will:**

- A. Ensure the IPAC information is available for all visitors.
- B. Ensure that each visitor has access to IPAC information.
- C. Maintain a daily list of General Visitors and contact information.

5.3. **Environmental Services Will:**

- A. Ensure there is enough hand sanitizer and disinfectant available in the indoor visiting area.
- B. Ensure there are masks available at the entrance for all visitors.
- C. Ensure the designated public indoor washrooms have an enhanced cleaning schedule.

5.4. Administrator/designate will:

- A. Ensure that visitors are following the outlined rules and following the visitor code of conduct.
- B. Ensure there is outdoor and indoor space designated for visiting.
- C. Ensure there is regular communication with residents and families regarding any changes to the visitor policy.

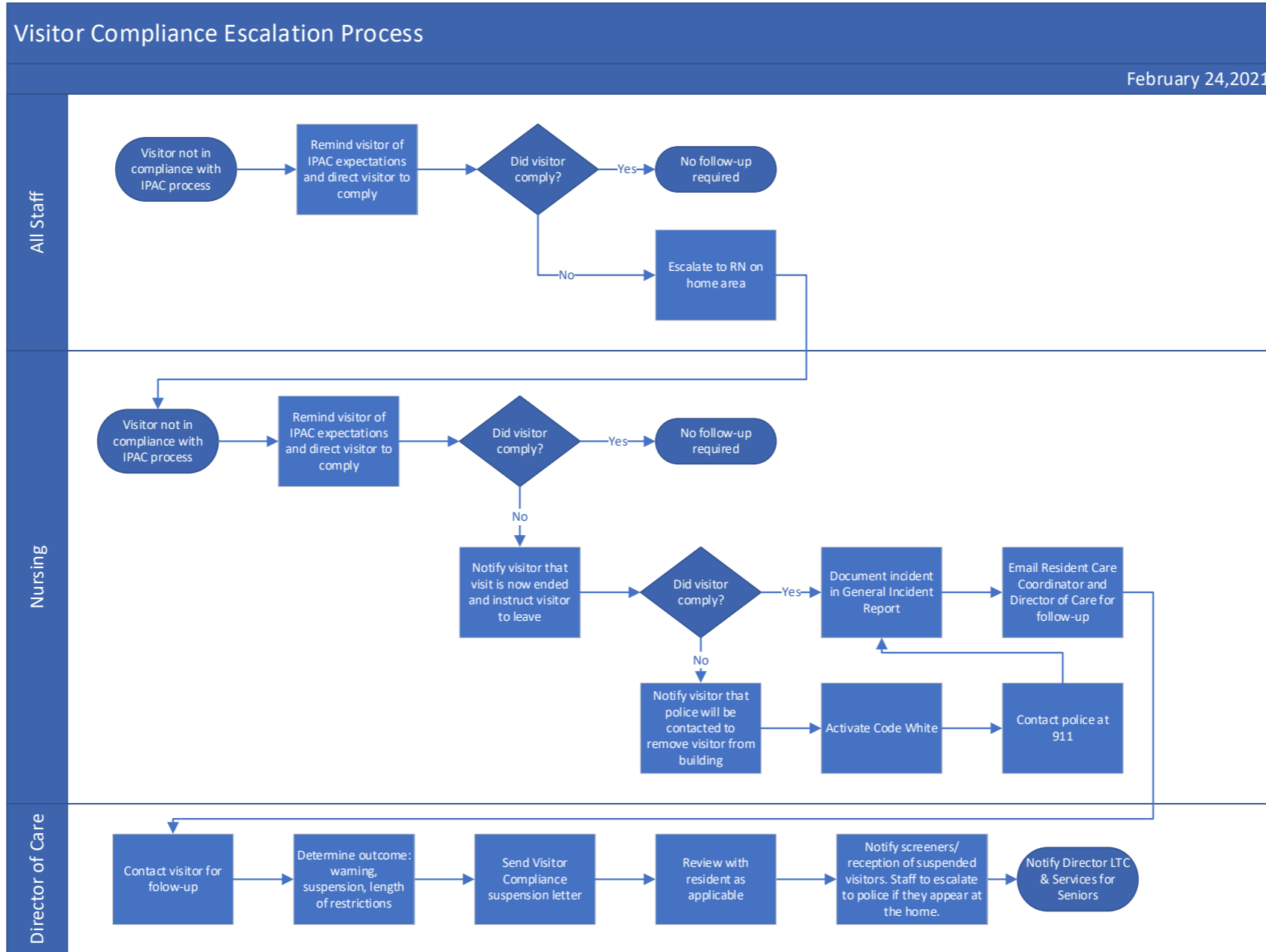
6. References

- 6.1. Fixing Long Term Care Act and Regulations, 2021, O Reg 246/22 s 102
- 6.2. Update to COVID-19 guidance on visiting Long Term Care homes, March 31, 2023
- 6.3. IC-05-13-07 Management of COVID -19 Immunization

7. Attachments/Appendices

- 7.1. Appendix 1 – Visitor Compliance Escalation Process
- 7.2. Appendix 2 – Visitor Code of Conduct

Appendix 1 – Visitor Compliance Escalation Process



Appendix 2 – Visitor Code of Conduct



A Community of Care and Respect (Visitor Code of Conduct)

Welcome

If you are a visitor here, you can contribute to our community by:

- ◇ Speaking and acting with respect and consideration for all people in the home.
- ◇ Respecting the residents' right to privacy and dignity.
- ◇ Cooperating with the home's policies in all matters of safety and resident care.

The Health and Safety of our Residents, Staff, and Volunteers are of great importance. This Home has zero tolerance for violence. The following will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave the building if you

- ◇ Continue to speak aggressively after having been asked to speak in a respectful manner.
- ◇ Behave in a threatening, or violent manner.
- ◇ Appear to be impaired or intoxicated from drugs or alcohol.
- ◇ Possess weapons.
- ◇ Take pictures or videos of residents/staff without their consent.
- ◇ Visit the home when you are ill with a transmittable condition.
- ◇ Refuse to comply with home policies.

Thank you for helping to create a community of care and respect.
We encourage you to share this with anyone who may be visiting.

I have read and understand the community of care and respect document.

Name (Printed)

Signature

Date