



## Memo

**To:** Families and residents  
**From:** Tina O'Malley RN, ICC  
**Date:** March 27, 2023  
**Re:** Pandemic Response changes

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The COVID-19 pandemic, while not yet over, is changing. A large portion of the population, especially in our resident and staff population, has been vaccinated against COVID-19, or has developed some natural immunity due to illness. As well, with the shift in COVID-19 variants, most illness experienced are much milder. The risk of severe outcomes to residents has been reduced and safe and effective therapeutics are available. We are, thankfully, not at the same stage of vulnerability as 3 years ago.

With this in mind, and with new recommendations by the Ministry of Long-Term Care, Valley Manor will implement the following changes **effective March 31, 2023**.

- Valley Manor's vaccination policy will be revoked. This means that staff, volunteers, students, support workers and visitors will no longer be required to provide proof of vaccination. Vaccination continues to be **strongly recommended** as per Ministry eligibility guidelines. Valley Manor will continue to offer vaccination clinics to those eligible and interested.
- Visitors will self-monitor for symptoms. No attestation or active screening will be required. Visitors that fail passive screening may not visit unless visiting a palliative resident. PPE is required in this case.
- Visitors will be asked to log in and provide their name, phone number, time and date of visit, and reason for visiting (i.e., name of resident visited).
- Asymptomatic rapid antigen testing will no longer be required.
- Masking remains a requirement for all staff and visitors indoors. Masking outdoors remains recommended for staff providing care to residents. Visitor

masks may be removed when in a resident's room **if the resident does not have a roommate present**. A meal therefore may be enjoyed by the resident and the visitor in this case. Children under the age of two are not required to wear a mask.

- The limit of 4 visitors in a room will be removed. Please be aware of space limitations and roommate considerations if larger groups are expected. Other areas of the home, or outdoors when weather permits can be used or arranged for large groups.
- If the Home is in an outbreak, or a resident is ill and isolation precautions are in place, **only essential caregivers** will be able to visit. The limit of one (1) essential caregiver per resident will change as per above. Personal protective equipment must be worn at all times when in the room of an isolating resident and must be removed immediately on exiting.
- Physical distancing for residents during activities will no longer be required. As well, residents will no longer need to cohort to their area lounges unless in an outbreak.
- Residents will continue to be monitored daily for signs of infection; however daily temperature checks will no longer be required.

Thank-you.

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Tina O'Malley RN, Infection Control Coordinator  
613-756-2643 extension 229.