

## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** October 14, 2021

**TO:** Long-term Care and Assisted Living Operators

**FROM:** Emily Pridham, LTC Director for COVID-19 Response

**RE:** Preventive Measures for Visitors

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The Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer have required mask wearing in healthcare facilities and mandatory vaccination for healthcare workers and visitors alongside existing preventive measures in Long-term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living sites. These measures in combination with evidence of high vaccination rates provincially for those eligible and low COVID-19 case rates amongst partially and fully vaccinated people have informed the following change.

### EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 12:

- Visitors are required to show their BC Vaccine Card (QR code or equivalent) as well as personal identification when signing-in, even if only to pass through the facility to access an outdoor space.
- Visitors who cannot demonstrate they are either partially or fully vaccinated will not be able to enter a facility (excluding children under 12 years or those with an approved [medical exemption](#)).
- Partially vaccinated visitors must adhere to the following measures until confirmed fully vaccinated:
  - Wear a medical-grade mask for the duration of the visit
- Unvaccinated visitors with no dose may visit outside, but cannot enter the facility to get to the visiting location. **Screening, including obtaining information for contact tracing and providing a medical grade mask is required. Mask must be worn for duration of outdoor visit.**

### EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 14:

- **Point of Care testing for partially vaccinated visitors is not required**

### EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 26:

- All visitors must demonstrate they are fully vaccinated with two doses to enter a facility (excluding children under 12 years or those with an approved medical exemption)
- Unvaccinated visitors with no dose may visit outside, but cannot enter the facility to get to the visiting location.

The foundations of prevention and reduced transmission for COVID-19 infection and other infectious illnesses remain imperative especially as we move into respiratory illness season.