



Victoria Chinatown Care Society

555 Herald Street,
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Tel: 250-381-4322
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<https://victoriachinatowncare.ca>

November 2, 2021

Dear Family Members:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in British Columbia (BC) the Ministry of Health, in consultation with BC's Provincial Health Officer, mobilized to rapidly respond to the risk of COVID-19 transmission in congregate care settings. Several enhanced protective measures have been put in place to minimize the risk for introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in long-term care homes and seniors' assisted living residences and protect those most vulnerable to serious illness.

On October 12th, 2021, the Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health announced details on updated requirements for visitation in long-term care and seniors' assisted living facilities. In recognition of the added layer of protection provided by the COVID-19 vaccines and given the vulnerability of residents in long-term care and seniors' assisted living even when fully immunized themselves, all visitors (both essential and social) are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19, excluding young children ineligible for vaccination or those with an approved medical exemption. Proof of vaccination (e.g. [BC Vaccine Card](#) or equivalent) is required prior to entering or passing through the facility.

Effective October 26, 2021:

- Visitors must demonstrate they are fully vaccinated to enter a facility (excluding young children under the age of vaccine eligibility or those with an approved medical exemption).

Exceptions regarding vaccination status in circumstances related to compassionate care such as end-of life visits will be considered on an individual basis for partially or unvaccinated individuals. Additional information regarding visitation, including proof of vaccination requirements, in long-term care and seniors' assisted living facilities can be found through the [BC Centre for Disease Control – Long-Term Care and Assisted Living](#).

At Victoria Chinatown Care Centre we will have visiting hours return to 7 days a week from 9:00 – 11:30 and 1:30 – 4:30. We need to define such visiting hours to ensure there is adequate staff to support safe visiting practices. Further details are addressed in the attached Appendix A. Thank you for continuing to take the necessary steps to enable support residents and staff to stay safe during these challenging times. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Maxine Alford (Ph.D.)
Interim Director of Care and Manager



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Appendix A: Visitor Protocol and Screening



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



Guidelines for Visitors to Long-Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living Facilities



**DO NOT
ENTER IF SICK**





All visitors must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to enter the facility*



All visitors must provide acceptable proof of COVID-19 vaccination



All visitors are required to wear a medical mask in hallways, common areas and multiple occupancy rooms



Visits will not be permitted during active COVID-19 outbreaks



Cough or sneeze into your elbow and do not touch your face



Use soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer



Clean hands before and after visiting

*Excluding children under 12 years, those with an approved medical exemption or for an end-of-life visit





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- Visitors must be screened for signs and symptoms of illness prior to every visit. Visitors with signs or symptoms of illness, as well as those in self-isolation or quarantine in accordance with public health directives, are not permitted to visit.
- All visitors must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination
- All visitors must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to enter the facility excluding children under 12 years, those with an approved medical exemption or for an end-of-life visit.
- All visitors are required to wear a medical mask in hallways, common areas and multiple occupancy rooms.
- Visitors and residents are expected to clean hands before and after visiting, practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette - i.e. cough or sneeze into elbows sleeves and dispose used tissues properly.
- Visits will not be permitted during active COVID-19 outbreaks.

Essential visits

Health authorities and facility operators shall continue to support visitors for essential visits. Health Authority or Facility staff will determine if a visit is essential. Examples of essential visits include, but are not limited to:

- Visits for compassionate care, including critical illness, palliative care, hospice care, end of life, and medical assistance in dying
- Visits paramount to the patient/client's physical care and mental well-being, including as follows:
 - Assistance with feeding, mobility, personal care or communication;
 - Assistance by designated representatives for persons with disabilities;
- Visits for supported decision making;
- Existing registered volunteers providing the services described above;
- Visits required to move belonging in/out of a resident's room;
- Police, correctional officers and peace officers accompanying a patient/client for security reasons.

Essential visits shall be limited to one visitor per resident within the facility at a time (except in the case of palliative/end of life care). An essential visit is not a social visit and essential visits are permitted in a care home/residence that has an active COVID-19 outbreak, under guidance and direction from the local medical health officer.