

Health Visits in Long-term Care

<p>Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long-term Care Island-Wide ○ Affiliates & Owned and Operated 	<p>Scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Facility Leadership & Staff; Contracted Health Care Providers • Indications: Health Visits
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Need to know:

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) and BC Center for Disease Control (BC CDC) have released policies and updated guidelines in prevention and management of COVID-19 in Long-term Care Facilities (LTCF) including those for outings. Effective April 1, 2021 residents may leave LTC facilities for outings and therefore have access to health care providers beyond what was previously defined as essential.
- In consultation with the Medical Health Officers (MHO), routine visits from contracted health care providers are allowed into LTC facilities for routine care provided they follow COVID-19 safety protocols outlined by their regulatory body (if applicable) or WorkSafeBC **AND** are an approved contracted health care provider for the long-term care facility.
- The [Single Site Order](#) remains in effect which requires all employed and contracted staff at a licensed LTC facility to select a single facility unless listed as exempt.

Site & Health Care Provider Responsibilities

Roles of the contracted health care provider and facility staff are outlined below for both off-site and on-site visits:

OFF-SITE HEALTH VISITS

- Considered outings. Resident would need to sign-out per [Release of Resident from Licensed Long-term Care Homes](#) (if applicable)
- Residents do not require isolation upon return to facility unless returning with symptoms of illness
- Operators will provide residents with a medical-grade mask to wear when they are leaving the facility on an outing
- If transportation provided by family/friend, vehicle occupants are encouraged to follow [BC CDC Carpooling guidelines](#). See Appendix A
- If professional service providing transportation, infection control requirements would be determined by company COVID safety plan.

ON-SITE HEALTH VISITS

Contracted Health Care Provider will:

- Ensure COVID Safety Plan has been approved by site leadership
- Book health visits in advance (required)

COVID-19: Guideline

- Call the facility 24 hours in advance of health visit to determine there is no active outbreak. Health visits are limited to essential only during outbreak
- Self-Screen with the [BC Self-Assessment Tool](#) and cancel appointment if screen is positive
- Be screened for COVID-19 symptoms including temperature check according to the [COVID-19 Long-term Care Facility Screening by Greeter guideline](#)
- Provide information for contact tracing recorded (name, phone number)
- Perform hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) upon entry and exit of facility
- Wear a medical-grade mask provided by the site for the duration of health visit
- Comply with personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements as outlined for health care providers in Long-term Care in Island Health's [PPE Required During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- Go directly to the health visit location to limit movement within the facility
- Maintain physical distance of 2 metres from staff and other residents
- Leave the facility immediately after the health visit
- Follow all guidelines as per professional college association (if applicable), WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Safety Protocols and approved site specific COVID Safety Plan

Site Staff:

- Pre-book health visit
- Establish appropriate location for appointment
- Greeter will screen contracted health care provider as per [COVID-19 Long-term Care Facility \(LTCF\): Screening by Greeter](#)
- Ensure contracted provider has appropriate PPE
- Ensure appointment location is appropriately cleaned following the visit

Persons/Groups Consulted: Medical Health Officer, Infection Prevention & Control, LTC Leadership

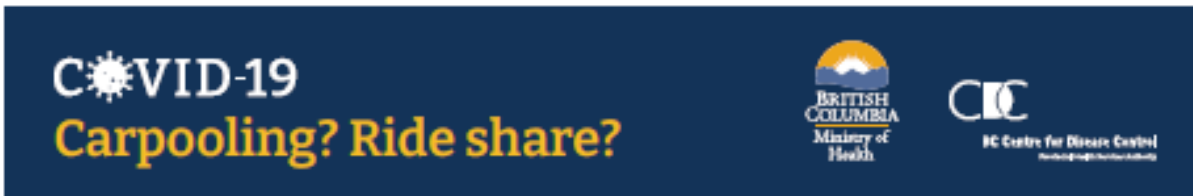
Resources

BC Center for Disease Control & BC Ministry of Health (2020) [Carpooling guidelines](#)

BC Center for Disease Control & BC Ministry of Health (2021) [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Long-term Care and Assisted Living facilities](#)

BC Center for Disease Control & BC Ministry of Health (2021) [Overview of Visitors in Long-term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living](#)

Fraser Health (2020) [Long-term Care, Assisted Living COVID-19 Resource Toolkit](#)



Reduce the spread of COVID-19 while travelling with people outside your household

Before the trip

Always complete a COVID-19 symptom check before carpooling.

Unless you need medical care or testing, do NOT travel if you have:

- COVID-19 symptoms
- Travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days
- Been told to self-isolate by Public Health



- Spread out as much as possible. If there are two people, the driver should be alone in the front.
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth.
- Travel with the same people each time.

During the trip



Keep your trips as short as possible.



Open windows in the vehicle to allow air in.



Set the vehicle's ventilation to bring in fresh outside air. DO NOT recirculate the air.



Avoid eating or drinking in the car.

Cleaning



Clean high contact areas (such as seat belts and door handles) every time you leave the vehicle.



If vehicles are shared on the job, clean between each shift.



Clean your hands when you get in and when you leave.

At work

If you are carpooling with another employee at your worksite, tell your employer. Your employer may use this information when making their COVID-19 Safety Plan.