**Previous Updates**

**As of August 28,**residents can leave the long-term care home property for short stay or temporary absence. Please review the FAQs below for absence process.

**Effective July 29,** the homes began allowing Essential Caregivers. Essential Caregivers are individuals who are not staff and provide care and service to one resident in the home. In many cases, these individuals are family. Please inquire with the home regarding their process for managing Essential Caregivers.

**Effective July 22**, indoor visits resumed. Indoor visits are subject to the same physical distancing requirements. Visitors will be provided with a surgical mask upon arrival and will be escorted to the visiting area. Physical distancing will still be required, and all indoor visitors must verbally confirm to the home that they have tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous two weeks and have not subsequently tested positive. We have developed processes to allow these visits to safely occur in our homes. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we continue to work together to ensure the safety of everyone.

**Effective March 14**, all Regional homes were closed to non-essential visitors. On June 11, the Province of Ontario announced in its [**news release**](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/06/ontario-to-resume-family-visits-in-long-term-care-homes-retirement-homes-and-other-residential-care.html) a gradual, staged resumption of visits at long-term care homes. The first phase is limited to outdoor visits only and is subject to several requirements as provided by the Ministry of Long-Term Care: [**Resuming Visits in Long-Term Care Homes**](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffiles.ontario.ca%2Fmltc-resuming-visits-long-term-care-homes-en-2020-06-11-v3.pdf%3F_ga%3D2.32065590.960763433.1592330242-436971321.1583762706&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cdb06d765e6104bfbe8d508d812207d7e%7C52d7c9c2d54941b69b1f9da198dc3f16%7C0%7C0%7C637279278035715525&sdata=01yu2UYYA%2BSzfur0rfkkvwX2QYgGuTa0VOS7iN%2FP9wI%3D&reserved=0). On July 15, an update to this document was [**released**](https://www.durham.ca/en/resourcesGeneral/Social-Services/mltc_resuming_ltc_home_visits_20200715.pdf). Outdoor visits have been expanded to include a maximum of two visitors per visit and there is no longer a requirement for a COVID-19 negative test result. You are however, asked not to visit if you are ill or have been in contact with someone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms