



Order: Phase 3 for Visiting & Activities in Care Homes

Effective: December 13 2021

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1. This Order is to authorize care homes to enter Phase 3 of visiting and activities and to notify of changes to Phase 3 as currently listed in the published Covid-19 Guidance for Care Homes. **Changes are in red.**

2. APPLICATION:

- 2.1. This Order applies to all regulated care homes under the Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes Act 1999. This includes independent living units within any care home.

3. DEFINITIONS:

- 3.1. Essential visitor or provider- a person:
 - a. Performing essential resident support services e.g. health care services required to maintain good health; family required to provide care; inspectors
 - b. Visiting a very ill or palliative resident
- 3.2. General visitor- a person who is not an essential visitor but visits:
 - a. To provide non-essential services
 - b. For social reasons
 - c. As a prospective new resident
- 3.3. Covid-19 Safekey- A Government of Bermuda issued QR Code to persons with a negative COVID-19 test (within 72hours) or who are fully immunized. A valid safe key must be within the time period it is issued for.

4. PHASE 3 VISITING AND ACTIVITY CRITERIA- GENERAL

- 4.1. **Visitors are authorized only if they can produce a:**
 - a. **Valid Safe-key; or**
 - b. **A negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test result, the day of the visit.**
- 4.2. If a home experiences an outbreak they will return to Phase 1 of the visiting and activities restrictions.
- 4.3. No general visitors are allowed to a resident that is in self-isolation or is symptomatic.
- 4.4. Sufficient staffing, PPE and policies are in place to manage visitors under Phase 3.
- 4.5. Visitors are prescheduled. The home must manage the total number of visitors and providers in the facility at one time to ensure sufficient staffing for oversight and monitoring of visits/services and sufficient space to maintain physical distancing requirements.
- 4.6. Visitors only visit those they are scheduled to visit.
- 4.7. Visit length is set by the home and their schedule to manage visitors with required precautions.
- 4.8. Children under 16 are only allowed for outdoor visiting and indoor visiting if contact with other residents can be avoided.
- 4.9. All visitors and providers are screened before entry.
- 4.10. Staff support proper PPE by visitors and providers:

- a. All visitors are to wear a mask when visiting residents and ensure good hand hygiene.
 - b. Essential visitors must wear PPE appropriate to the COVID-19 status and type of support provided (see Care Home Covid-19 Guidance, Appendix 1).
 - c. General visitors must wear a mask and maintain physical distancing of 6feet from residents.
- 4.11. Activities are conducted in small pods of a maximum 6 residents.
- 4.12. External activity providers and essential providers are to wear the level of PPE required based on the type of service provision being provided e.g. no contact, low contact, high contact, aerosol generating procedures (see COVID 19 guidance on www.gov.bm) or .

Phase 3 - Visitors:

- 4.13. Essential visitors are allowed in accordance with the Covid-19 Guidance for Care Homes; and
- 4.14. The maximum number of visitors or providers allowed to visit a resident at a time is determined by the home and is dependent on the space available and maintaining required precautions during the visit in the home.
- a. Indoor visitors and providers must maintain physical distancing. This includes consideration for the roommates of a resident if the visit must occur in their room. A dedicated indoor visiting space may be useful if space permits.

Phase 3- Leaving the care home:

- 4.15. Residents who wish to leave the home for non-essential care and activities have the following precautions in place:
- a. Residents, and persons they are leaving the home with, are educated by staff on proper Covid-19 precautions which includes, no visiting of persons who are symptomatic, in isolation or quarantine and have a recent travel history when outside the home.
 - b. Residents are screened upon re-entry to the home (they do not require isolation or testing unless presenting with symptoms).
 - c. Residents wear a mask at all times when not in the home.
- 4.16. Residents whose leave includes an overnight stay follow the above precautions and, upon return to the care homes, are put under 14 days of 'modified quarantine' which includes:
- a. Twice per day active symptom screening – if any symptoms are present this would trigger a suspected case and the required actions outlined in the Guidance.
 - b. No indoor visitation
 - c. Avoidance of common areas however if not possible, residents are to wear a mask.
 - d. Limited contact with other residents
 - e. No participation in group activities
 - f. Frequent hand washing
 - g. Adherence to respiratory etiquette
 - h. Maintaining physical distancing
 - i. Negative Nasopharyngeal (NP) day 14 COVID-19 test to discontinue precautions

Phase 3- Activities:

- 4.17. External activity providers may be brought into the home to provide activities and other services to the residents. **See the Care Home Staffing Employment Restrictions Policy for more details.**
- 4.18. Providers must wear PPE and maintain group size and physical distancing as outlined in the Guidance.

- 4.19. All providers should have a negative Covid-19 test no more than 3 days prior to starting to provide services in a care home. Providers are to comply with testing requests by the care home or the ESU as required to continue service provision to the home.

Phase 3 - Day care services for non-residents

- 4.20. Care homes licensed to provide day care services may resume services in Phase 3, see COVID-19 Guidance Care Homes Day Care Programming 2.31 – 2.32.10.
- 4.21. **Day care attendees are required to:**
- a. **Provide proof of **Immunization** against COVID-19 (2 doses plus 2 weeks); AND**
 - b. **Have a negative COVID-19 Saliva test or on-site rapid antigen Test **every 72hours.****

We appreciate your diligence and commitment to maintaining these requirements and restrictions to keep residents safe while providing alternatives to help support their quality of life during these challenging times. If you have any questions please contact covid19LTCH@gov.bm

Dr A. Oyinloye, Chief Medical Officer
6 December 2021