

For Better Retirement Living



February 3, 2022

Dear Augustine House Community,

On Monday, January 31, Dr. Henry made an announcement regarding visitation. We have now received the updated order and want to pass on what has and has not changed with regard to visiting.

The definition of **essential visits** has not changed. These are visits linked with an essential need that **could not be met** in the absence of the essential visit. It remains up to the Facility to determine if a visit is essential.

Every resident is entitled to one designated visitor. This visitor **may be able to continue to visit at times when visitation is restricted, under the guidance and direction from the local medical health officer**. This is a change. Up until now, visitation has been automatically suspended when an outbreak has been called and during some enhanced monitoring situations. We will work with the Medical Health Officer and families should this situation arise. The updated order also allows for a change in designated visitor should the primary designated visitor be unable to visit for an extended length of time. We have already run into this problem and worked with the family to ensure visits continued.

We continue to require all visitors to have a rapid test, wear appropriate personal protective equipment, and only visit with the resident they are designated to visit. For logistic reasons we require visitors to make appointments to allow the required screening to be done in a safe and effective manner. We are also offering rapid testing to individuals acting as drivers for residents. Although these individuals are not entering the building, they are spending time with a resident in a confined space, which is a prime location for transmission. And please remember, do not visit if you have any of the possible symptoms of Covid-19 or are feeling unwell in any way.

I would like to thank everyone who has come to visit at Augustine House for being patient with this process. Although at times it seems cumbersome, we have detected positive cases at the entrance of the building, both with visitors and drivers. All of these individuals felt fine and would have passed the verbal screening questions.

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We are encouraged by modeling that shows that this wave of the pandemic appears to be on the decline and look forward to things getting a bit more 'back to normal' in the coming weeks and months.

Yours,

Jackie Reiners
Executive Director
Augustine House