PINECREST
NURSING HOME

Visits_Caregiver_Program

Manual: Facility	Section Visiting
Approver: Administrator	Original Date: 2020-09-10
Approval Date: 2026-05-22	Next Review Date: 2027-04-30

Policy: At Pinecrest Nursing Home we are committed to the safety and well-being of our residents, staff and visitors. This document will outline the caregiver program and procedure

Definition: "caregiver" means an individual who,
(a) is a family member or friend of a resident or a person of importance to a resident,

(b) is able to comply with all applicable laws including any applicable directives, orders, guidance, advice or recommendations issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health or a medical officer of health appointed under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*,

(c) provides one or more forms of support or assistance to meet the needs of the resident, including providing direct physical support such as activities of daily living or providing social, spiritual or emotional support, whether on a paid or unpaid basis,

(d) is designated by the resident or the resident's substitute decision-maker with authority to give that designation, if any, and

(e) in the case of an individual under 16 years of age, has approval from a parent or legal guardian to be designated as a caregiver. (O.Reg. 246/22: General, s.4)

Procedure:

1. The resident or substitute decision maker will designate caregivers to

Pinecrest.
2. The home will have a list of caregiver's at the Nurse's station and in the caregiver application book. Caregivers will be entered under a resident's profile on Point Click Care.
3. Prior to becoming a caregiver, the caregiver will read the visiting and caregiver polices.
4. Prior to becoming a caregiver, the caregiver will be receive training in providing safe direct care, including: Donning and doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hand hygiene, physical distancing, and feeding. Caregivers will also be trained annually and as needed (i.e error in donning/doffing process, hand hygiene, etc.)
5. They must pass passive screening prior to attending the home
6. Caregivers should not have visited any other person who is self-isolating/ symptomatic or another home in outbreak in the past 10 days
7. Masks are recommended at different times of the year, depending on respiratory illness in the community. Signage will be posted when it is recommended. When the home is in outbreak or a resident is in isolation, caregivers must wear a mask as required by Pinecrest outbreak management team.

Visiting
Caregivers are not required to schedule visits but must pass passive screening prior to attending the home. Out of respect for the needs of other residents, we ask that you plan your visits between 10 am and 7 pm daily. Meticulous hand hygiene must be maintained throughout the visit as well as adherence to all infection prevention and control (IPAC) requirements. The essential caregiver may assist at meal times and group programs.

Essential caregivers are not permitted to bring pets unless that have completed the pet visitation requirements-please speak with Activation staff regarding pet visitation. They may bring outside food, drink, and/or gifts for the resident. They must bring food in an air-tight, sealed, wipeable container. Food that requires refrigeration is to have a date on the container and stored in the resident refrigerator located in the activity room.

Screening
Caregivers should self- assess for infectious symptoms before attending the home and postpone their visit if they are experiencing symptoms. Caregivers will need to self-monitor for symptoms on arrival and throughout their visit. If they begin to feel unwell, they should let staff know and leave to home immediately. Caregivers may return to the home if they have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours is gastrointestinal symptoms i.e. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) and are fever free. Upon return, caregivers are to follow measures to reduce the risk of transmission for 10 days from symptom onset. This includes wearing a medical mask while at the home for 10 days from when

symptoms started.

Non-adherence
Non-adherence to Pinecrest policy could result in discontinuation of visits with the non-compliant visitor. Review Pinecrest's “Visits_Non-adherence” policy to understand what qualifies as non-adherence, and the procedure used to correct non-adherence before ending privileges. Caregiver illness
If a caregiver is ill they must be improving for 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms) and fever free. They must wear a mask while attending the home for 10 days from when symptoms started

Additional Required Reading:
The following policies must be read annually or as changes occur in conjunction with this Caregiver policy: Visits Guidelines for Visiting, visits non-adherence, IPAC Caregiver Infection Prevention Basics, IPAC Caregiver Hand Hygiene, public Health's “Recommended Steps: Putting on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)”, Visits Privacy & Confidentiality, and Visits Caregiver Feeding Training. Must also watch Public Health's videos: Putting on Full Personal Protective Equipment, Taking off Full Personal Protective Equipment, Putting on One-Piece Facial Protection, Taking off One-Piece Facial Protection, and How to Hand Wash.

References:

Ministry of Health. “COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes”. August, 2022.

Ministry of Long-Term Care. COVID-19 Guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario. March , 2024. https://ltchomes.net/LTCHPORTAL/Content/Snippets/20240304-01-EN-MLTC-COVID-19-Guidance-Document-for-Long-Term-Care-Homes-Updates_2024.03.04_Final.pdf

Ministry of Long-Term Care.”Resuming Visits in Long-Term Care Homes”, September 2020.

Ministry of Long-Term Care. “COVID-19 Visiting Policy”, November 2020.

Ministry of Long-Term Care. “Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19 Policy”, November 2020.

Ontario Health. Updating the Visitor Policy to Long-Term Care Homes, July 2020.