

## RESIDENTIAL VISITATION PROCEDURE

We are updating the residential visitation procedure at the instruction of the Department of Families, effective immediately.

**Purpose:** To prevent the spread of COVID-19 while balancing between preventative measures and the benefits of social connections for people supported and their loved ones.

**Applicable:** To all friends or family that are visitors to people who live in VOI homes.

### Procedure for Residential Visitation

1. All visits must be pre-booked with the Facility Manager in advance of the proposed scheduled visit.
2. The time of day for visits and length of visits will be at the discretion of the Facility Manager based on operational needs of their department and available staffing. CLDS encourages Facility Managers and staff to consider evening visitation times as well due to visitors' schedules.
3. All visitors must comply with infection prevention and control measures. This includes strict hand hygiene **before, during (if possible) and after** any visit and maintaining physical distancing (6 feet/2 meters apart) whenever possible. Any personal contact should be brief and kept to a minimum.
4. Staff are required to wear PPE inside the house at all times and outside if physical distancing is not possible. Visitors and people supported are not required to wear a PPE indoors or outdoors but wearing a non-medical mask during visits is encouraged.
5. You are encouraged to bring your own lawn chair, if possible.
6. The department reserves the right to cancel visits due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control (i.e. bad weather if outdoor visit, ill roommate if indoor visit, etc.).

Visits may occur **only** if the visitor and the person supported:

1. have not been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is being tested for COVID-19 with results pending;
2. have not been instructed to self-isolate;
3. have not travelled outside of Manitoba in the last 14 days (not including Western Canada – BC, AB, SK, Yukon, NWT, Nunavut, and Northwestern Ontario – west of Terrace Bay); and



4. do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (i.e. cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache).

**The visitor must complete the screening questionnaire before coming to the home, and these criteria apply to all visits (indoor and outdoor) whether they take place at the home or somewhere else.**

#### Indoor Visits

A maximum of **one (1)** visitor can be inside the home at a time. If two (2) or more persons supported would like to have a visitor inside the home on the same day, the visitors must come at different times.

#### Outdoor Visits

A maximum of **two (2)** visitors can be outside of the home at a time. If two (2) or more persons supported would like to have a visitor outside the home on the same day, the total number of visitors at one time cannot be more than two (2).

**Because the risk of transmitting the virus is less likely in outdoor settings, CLDS encourages visits at the home happen outside whenever possible.** They also encourage using other ways to communicate such as video or phone calls, where appropriate.

#### Family Home and Cabin Visits

Supported persons can visit their family home or cabin, including overnight stays, **only if** the home or cabin is location in Manitoba or northwestern Ontario. When the person supported returns to their home, they **must** meet the screening criteria listed above.

#### Managing Risk

Because the people we support are part of the vulnerable population, their health remains an important consideration. Facility Managers or staff should seek medical advice before arranging visits at homes with support persons who may be at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 or at a higher risk of serious illness, if you need confirmation on whether someone is at a higher risk you can contact your Director.

Protecting the health and well-being of the people we support and their staff remains one of our top priorities. Regular reassessment by reviewing information shared by public health officials further to the impact and evaluation of the need for adjusted visitor restrictions will be ongoing.