Short Stay Absences & Temporary Absences – Iroquois Lodge

Date: September 24, 2020

The Ministry of Long-Term Care announced on August 28, 2020 that residents of Long-Term Care homes in Ontario are now approved for “short stay absences” and “temporary absences”.

- A **short stay absence** means that residents can leave the home for health-care related, social and other outings that does not include an overnight stay.
- A **temporary absence** is defined as an absence of one or more nights for personal reasons. This type of absence is requested by the resident or Power of Attorney and a risk assessment will be completed by the Director of Care before approval.

As we monitor the rise in cases in Ontario and prepare for the possibility of a second wave, staff and residents of Iroquois Lodge remain concerned. There is risk associated with the changes in Directive #3 announced by the Ministry. Due to the size and layout of our building, we are unable to keep residents physically distanced during meal times or in other common spaces such as our lobby. In order to balance the quality of life and the safety of our residents we will be implementing some strategies to mitigate the risks. We will assess the risk of exposure of each resident who goes on short stay absences and determine the infection control procedures to be implemented. These might include asking residents to wear masks while in the building in spaces other than their room. We might also cohort residents for meal times or serve them meals in their rooms.

We again wish to thank all of the families for their ongoing patience, cooperation and support during this difficult time. Our team at Iroquois Lodge has worked diligently to stay COVID-19 free over the past 27 weeks. We will continue to do everything we can to keep residents and staff safe from COVID-19. If you are feeling unwell or have travelled to the United States within the past fourteen (14) days, please reschedule your visit. Below outlines the processes for temporary and short stay absences.

**To schedule a Temporary Absence**
If the resident is not able to make the decision to for a temporary absence, the Power of Attorney (POA) or Substitute Decision Maker, must contact Iroquois Lodge at 519-445-2224.

**The POA/Substitute Decision Maker must provide the following information:**

- Date and time of pick-up
- Reason for the absence
- Name of the **one** person picking up the resident
- Date and time of return
Process for Pick-up

- The family member will enter using the front entrance and go through the screening process.
- The family member will be required to wear a face covering upon entry and while waiting for the resident in the front entrance.
- The nursing staff will provide the resident with a mask and the family member with any other information, medications, directions, belongings, etc.

During the Absence

- While outside of Iroquois Lodge, residents must wear a medical mask that was provided to them at all times (if tolerated) unless they are eating, drinking or sleeping.
- They must adhere to the physical distancing guidelines.
- Family members are also asked to wear a mask for the duration of the outing.
- Continuous hand hygiene is strongly recommended.

Additional Information about Temporary Absences

- Approval of these types of absences is based on a case by case risk assessment that includes the following;
  - The ability to self-isolate the resident for 14 days upon return
  - Local community COVID-19 transmission and activity, based on Public Health
  - The risk of the planned activities while on the outing
  - The resident’s ability to comply with local policies and Ministry of Long Term Care policies
- If the home denies a temporary absence, this will be communicated, along with the rationale, in writing to the resident or Substitute Decision Maker
- All residents must wear a medical mask at all times when they are off the home’s property and must be provided with Infection Prevention and Control education, specifically around the importance of physical distancing.
- Upon return, residents must be accompanied by one family member to the screening desk at Iroquois Lodge. The screener will contact the Charge Nurse to accept the resident back into the home. If a family member is not accompanying the resident, the Charge Nurse must be notified of the date and time of arrival.
- Upon return, the resident will be placed on isolation precautions for 14 days and will be tested for COVID-19 on day 15 post isolation.
- If Iroquois Lodge is declared in Outbreak while a resident is on a temporary absence, the resident will not be able to return to the home until the outbreak is over.
Short Stay Absences

- At this time, residents will be able to schedule short stay absences with a staff member from Iroquois Lodge. This would include outings for haircuts, banking or shopping. This is to support residents to maintain the safety protocols as outlined by local public health and community guidelines.
- All residents must wear a medical mask at all times when they are off the home’s property and must be provided with Infection Prevention and Control education, specifically around the importance of physical distancing.
- Upon return the resident will be actively screened as per current process.
- Residents will not be required to be tested for COVID-19 for a short-stay absence nor required to be on isolation precautions upon their return to the unit unless they fail the screening process.

Nya:weh for your support and cooperation!
Iroquois Lodge Leadership Team

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Iroquois Lodge Indoor/Outdoor Visitation – Update

Date: September 24, 2020

The Ministry of Long-Term Care announced updated visiting guidelines on August 28, 2020. We want to thank all of the families for their ongoing patience, cooperation and support during this challenging time. Our team at Iroquois Lodge has worked diligently to keep COVID-19 out! We want to continue to do everything that we can to keep residents and staff safe. If you are feeling unwell or have visited in the United States in the last fourteen (14) days, please reschedule your visit.

Types of visitors:

1) **Essential Visitors**: a person performing an essential support service within the LTC home (i.e. government inspector, contractor, lab technician) or a person visiting a palliative or critically ill resident. This also includes a Designated Caregiver, someone designated by the resident to provide direct care to the resident.

2) **General Visitor**: a person who is visiting to provide non-essential services or family/friends visiting for social reasons.

**Outdoor Visits**

- Outdoor visits will continue as long as the weather permits.
- COVID test is **NOT** required
- Call Iroquois Lodge one day in advance to schedule a time.
- Residents may have two people visit at one time.
- Visiting hours are from 9:30am-12:00pm and 1:30pm-5:00pm. Visits are limited to 30 minutes.
- Screening will be completed upon your arrival. This will include taking your temperature.
- Please ensure to bring a face covering with you. You must wear this during your visit.
- Staff will bring the resident to the outdoor visiting area.
- Please remain six (6) feet physical distancing during the visit to help limit any risk of COVID-19.
- No public washrooms will be available for visitors.
Indoor Visits – General Visitor

- Call Iroquois Lodge one day in advance to schedule your visit.
- Residents may have two people visit at one time provided the resident is not self-isolating and the home is not in an outbreak of any kind.
- Visiting hours are from 9:30am-12:00pm and 1:30pm-5:00pm. Visits are limited to 30 minutes.
- Please bring a copy of your negative COVID-19 test with you. The test must have been completed within the previous 14 days.
- Screening will be completed upon your arrival. This will include taking your temperature.
- Visits will take place in the resident room and the room will be cleaned before and after each visit.
- A surgical mask must be worn at all times while visiting (no drinks/food, do not remove mask if making a phone call).
- Please use hand sanitizer that is located in the front entryway.
- No public washrooms will be available at this time.

*Non-adherence to visiting protocols can result in restricting further visits. We want to continue to keep all residents safe! We look forward to having family and friends safely visiting indoors again!

*If Iroquois Lodge were to be in an outbreak, only essential visitors will be permitted.

Nya:weh for your support and cooperation!
Iroquois Lodge Leadership Team

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