

Infection Control: Pandemic	Policy Number:
Category: Absences	Implementation Date: September 21, 2020
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Page: 1 of 3	Authorized Signature: Administrator

POLICY and PROCEDURES: Resident Absences

1. Policy Statement

The Pines Long-Term Care Home will implement processes to allow for resident absences based on COVID-19 Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007 (Directive #3). This policy outlines standards and procedures on how residents may leave the home's property for a short-term or temporary absence.

- Short term absences are for healthcare-related, social, compassionate/palliative, and essential or other reasons and do not include an overnight term, with the exception of single-night emergency room visits.
- Temporary absences are for personal reasons and for one or more overnights.

2. Short-Term Absences

A. Definition

Residents may leave the home's property for a short-term absence for health care-related, social, or other reasons. All short-term absence does not include an overnight term, with the exception of single-night emergency room visits (see below).

Residents must be provided with a medical mask to be worn at all times when outside of the home (if tolerated) and reminded about the importance of public health measures including physical distancing, washing hands frequently, limiting their contact with others, and avoiding crowds or large social gatherings with crowding.

- **Medical absences:** Absences to seek medical and/or health care.
- **Compassionate/Palliative absences:** include, but are not limited to, absences for the purpose of visiting a dying loved one.

HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Long-Term Care Services

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Long-Term Care Home

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- **Short-term (Day) absences:** absences that are less than or equal to 24 hours in duration.
Essential absences: include absences for reasons of groceries, pharmacies, and outdoor physical activity.
- **Social absences:** include absences for all reasons not listed under medical, compassionate/palliative, and/or essential absences that do not include an overnight stay.

B. Standards and Procedures for Short Term Absences

1. All absences are available to all residents despite vaccination status.
2. Residents will be provided with a medical mask to be worn at all times when outside of the home (if tolerated) and must observe all public health measures, as indicated above.
3. In the sole discretion of The Pines Long-Term Care Home, the home reserves the right to cancel any future requests for short term absences should it be deemed that the resident or the responsible family member are not following public health standards for COVID-19 and putting the resident at risk for being exposed to COVID-19.
4. All short-term absences will be canceled in the event that The Pines Long-Term Care Home has a COVID-19 outbreak.
5. Any resident who is in isolation during the period of the short-term absence request will not qualify for this absence.
6. See the chart below related to what is required when a resident returns to the home from this type of absence.

What happens when I return home?

When residents return from a day absence they will:

- Be actively screened
- Undergo rapid antigen testing and a PCR test on day five following the absence.
- Residents who are away frequently can choose to take a PCR test and rapid antigen test, on the same day, twice per week (for example, a PCR and rapid test on Tuesday, with both repeated on Friday). No quarantine is required unless a positive result is received.

When residents return from an overnight absence they will:

- Be actively screened and then monitored for symptoms twice daily for 10 days
 - If returning from a hospital*: PCR or rapid antigen tested prior to or when returning home and quarantined until a negative test result can be obtained.
 - If returning from the community: be screened and quarantine on arrival until negative PCR test result or rapid molecular test result from day five test. Those residents who do not have 3 or 4 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are required to quarantine for 10 days with a PCR test on day five.

Note: Residents who have been COVID-19 positive in the past 90 days may not be required to undergo testing and quarantine requirements when returning from an absence unless they have symptoms of COVID-19.

*Assuming hospital is not in outbreak, resident is not symptomatic and/or had been exposed to COVID-19. If the hospital is in outbreak the PHU will advise on testing and quarantine requirements.

What if I come into contact with someone with COVID-19?

Residents with 3 or 4 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine:

- Screened on arrival and quarantined until a negative result is obtained from the day five test

Residents who are not vaccinated or do not have their 3rd dose:

- Screened on arrival and quarantined for 10 days with a PCR test on day five.
- All residents are still permitted to see their caregivers while in quarantine

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3. Temporary Absences

A. Definition

All Residents may leave the home's property for a temporary absence that involves two or more days and one or more nights for non-medical reasons. Residents who leave the home for an overnight absence must follow the *Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units* related to testing and isolation requirements.

The resident or POA/SDM must request a temporary absence and The Pines Long-Term Care Home must approve all temporary absences prior to. The home will attempt to accommodate these requests wherever operationally feasible.

B. Standards and Procedures for Temporary Absences

1. Effective March 14, 2022, all residents, regardless of vaccination status, may resume temporary (i.e. overnight) absences.
2. See the chart below related to what is required when a resident returns to the home from this type of absence.

What happens when I return home?	What if I come into contact with someone with COVID-19?
<p>When residents return from a day absence they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be actively screened • Undergo rapid antigen testing and a PCR test on day five following the absence. • Residents who are away frequently can choose to take a PCR test and rapid antigen test, on the same day, twice per week (for example, a PCR and rapid test on Tuesday, with both repeated on Friday). No quarantine is required unless a positive result is received. <p>When residents return from an overnight absence they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be actively screened and then monitored for symptoms twice daily for 10 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If returning from a hospital*: PCR or rapid antigen tested prior to or when returning home and quarantined until a negative test result can be obtained. ◦ If returning from the community: be screened and quarantine on arrival until negative PCR test result or rapid molecular test result from day five test. Those residents who do not have 3 or 4 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are required to quarantine for 10 days with a PCR test on day five. <p><small>Note: Residents who have been COVID-19 positive in the past 90 days may not be required to undergo testing and quarantine requirements when returning from an absence unless they have symptoms of COVID-19.</small></p> <p><small>*Assuming hospital is not in outbreak, resident is not symptomatic and/or had been exposed to COVID-19. If the hospital is in outbreak the PHU will advise on testing and quarantine requirements.</small></p>	<p>Residents with 3 or 4 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screened on arrival and quarantined until a negative result is obtained from the day five test <p>Residents who are not vaccinated or do not have their 3rd dose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screened on arrival and quarantined for 10 days with a PCR test on day five. • All residents are still permitted to see their caregivers while in quarantine

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