



KRISTUS DĀRZS LATVIAN HOME

VISITOR POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy serves as a formal document to ensure Kristus Darzs Latvian Home's (the "Home") compliance with O. Reg. 246/22 under Fixing Long-Term Care Act 2021. The policy provides residents, families and staff with up-to-date information regarding requirements to access our Home.

POLICY

Kristus Darzs Latvian Home's Visitor Policy

- (a) includes the process for visitor access during non-outbreak situations and during an outbreak of a communicable disease or an outbreak of a disease of public health significance, an epidemic or a pandemic;
- (b) includes the process for documenting and keeping a written record of,
 - (i) the designation of a caregiver; and
 - (ii) the approval from a parent or legal guardian to permit persons under 16 years of age to be designated as a caregiver, if applicable;
- (c) complies 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; and
- (d) ensures that essential visitors continue to have access to the Home during an outbreak of a communicable disease, an outbreak of a disease of public health significance, an epidemic, or a pandemic, subject to any applicable laws.

SCOPE / APPLICATION

This policy applies to all visitors to Kristus Darzs Latvian Home.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Home shall ensure that the current version of the visitor policy is provided to the Residents' Council and families. This policy is to be enforced by the Home's staff and management.



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Visitor policy is posted on the Home's website and thus readily available to all visitors.

PROCEDURE

VISITOR ACCESS DURING NON-OUTBREAK SITUATIONS

Essential visitors

There are no limits on the total number of essential visitors allowed to come into the Home at any given time.

Caregivers

Caregivers may support more than one resident in non-outbreak situations, with the expectation provided the Home obtains consent from all involved residents (or their substitute decision makers).

General Visitors

All general visitors, including children under the age of five, can enter the Home. General visitors, except for the children under the age of five, will need to follow the Home's vaccination policy.

There are no limits on the number of visitors permitted to visit at one time. There are no restrictions for outdoor visits in relation to the individual's vaccination status.

Physical distancing (a minimum of two metres or six feet) must be maintained between groups.

Masking

Masking remains a requirement for long-term care staff, as well as for visitors and others entering long-term care homes. However, recognizing that long-term care residents miss seeing the faces of their loved ones, the Ministry is recommending rather than requiring that caregivers and visitors wear masks when they are alone with a resident in their room. Visitors and caregivers are still required to be masked outside of resident room.

For residents living in shared rooms, should caregivers or visitors wish to interact with their loved one without a mask, caregivers or visitors shall let the RN know. The RN will make every effort to provide a designated space for your visit if available.



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VISITOR ACCESS DURING AN OUTBREAK OF A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OR AN OUTBREAK OF A DISEASE OF PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE, AN EPIDEMIC OR A PANDEMIC

Essential visitors

There are no limits on the total number of essential visitors allowed to come into the Home at any given time. Essential visitors are the only type of visitors allowed when there is an outbreak in the Home or area of the Home or when a resident has failed screening, is symptomatic or in isolation.

Caregivers

In the case where a resident resides in an area of the Home in outbreak, is symptomatic or isolating under additional precautions, only one caregiver may visit at a time.

A caregiver should not visit any other home for 10 days after visiting:

- an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19
- an individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms

Recognizing there are caregivers who want to volunteer to support more than one resident, in the event of an outbreak, caregivers may support up to two residents who are COVID-19 positive, provided the home obtains consent from all involved residents (or their substitute decision makers).

General Visitors

General visitors are not permitted:

- when a home or area of a home is in outbreak
- to visit an isolating resident
- when the local public health unit so directs

Direction from the local public health unit

In the case where a local public health unit directs the Home in respect of the number of visitors allowed, the Home must follow the direction of the local public health unit.

VISITOR LOG

The Home shall maintain visitor logs for a minimum of 30 days which include:

- (a) the name and contact information of the visitor;
- (b) the time and date of the visit; and
- (c) the name of the resident visited.



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All visitors are registered upon entry to the Home by the Screener. The visitor logs are stored in the Payroll Administrator's office.

DESIGNATION OF A CAREGIVER

During resident admission, the Resident Support Services Coordinator (or designate) explains the role of the caregiver to the resident and/or POA and family. The resident and/or POA assigns caregiver(s) and signs caregiver agreement form.

If the designated caregiver is not present during admission, the agreement is signed at a later time and submitted to the Resident Support Services Coordinator for final review and approval.

The signed agreement form is placed in resident's file. A copy of the agreement is shared with the Home's IPAC lead to ensure education material is forwarded to the caregiver for completion.

The Resident Support Services Coordinator adds caregiver name and contact phone number to the list and provides the updated list to the screeners.

If designated caregiver is under 16 years of age, the approval from a parent or legal guardian is obtained.

Kristus Darzs Latvian Home reserves the right to revoked caregiver privileges if the individual does not complete the required IPAC education or is continuously non-compliant with the IPAC and other safety measures of the Home.

ACTIVE SCREENING AND TESTING

All visitors are actively screened for symptoms, risk, and potential exposure prior to the entry to the Home.

All visitors are tested for COVID-19 using Rapid Antigen Test and present a negative result in order to gain entry to Kristus Darzs Latvian Home.

Visitors presenting repeat false positives from antigen tests are required to present negative PCR test upon entry to the Home frequency of which is determined by the local Public Health unit in agreement with the Home.

Infants under the age of one are not considered visitors and are excluded from testing requirements.

The testing requirements do not apply to inspectors with a statutory right of entry. Rather, inspectors from the Ministry of Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Labour,



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Training and Skills Development have separate and specific testing protocols that have been established within their ministries.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

To gain entry to the Home, all visitors age 5 and older must present proof of having received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by Health Canada or proof of a valid medical exemption according to the Home's COVID-19 Immunization policy.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Home's IPAC lead provides education and training to all caregivers and, as reasonably possible, general visitors about physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, IPAC practices, and proper use of PPE.

DEFINITIONS

"Essential visitor" means,

- (a) a caregiver,
- (b) a support worker who visits a home to provide support to the critical operations of the home or to provide essential services to residents,
- (c) a person visiting a very ill resident for compassionate reasons including, but not limited to, hospice services or end-of-life care, or
- (d) a government inspector with a statutory right to enter a long-term care home to carry out their duties.

"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



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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.

“General visitor” means

a person who is not an essential visitor and is visiting to provide non-essential services related to either the operations of the home or a particular resident or group of residents. General visitors include those persons visiting for social reasons as well as visitors providing non-essential services such as personal care services, entertainment, or individuals touring the home.

Not considered visitors

The Home's staff (as defined under the Act), volunteers, and student placements are not considered visitors. Infants under the age of one are also not considered visitors.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

O. Reg. 246/22 under Fixing Long-Term Care Act 2021

Kristus Darzs Latvian Home's COVID-19 Immunization Policy

Kristus Darzs Latvian Home's policy on Fundamental Principal and Resident Bill of Rights

COVID-19 Guidance Document for long term care homes in Ontario