



# KRISTUS DĀRZS LATVIAN HOME

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## **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.

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 rooms. Masking is not required during outdoor visits.

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**

During an outbreak, the Home continue to be subject to public health unit (PHU) direction.

#### **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, there are no limits of how many caregivers can visit at one 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 should postpone all non-essential visits to residents within the outbreak area for the duration of the outbreak.

Caregivers, support workers, or individuals visiting a resident receiving end of life care, are allowed when a resident is isolating or resides in a home or area of the home in an outbreak, provided they are able to comply with the PPE recommendations.

#### **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.



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## **VISITOR LOG**

Visitor log can be found in the main entrance vestibule. All visitors and caregivers are asked to sign in and include the following:

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

The Home shall maintain visitor logs for a minimum of 30 days.

## **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.

## **SCREENING AND TESTING**

While passive screening requirements for staff, visitors and caregivers continue, the active screening recommendation is no longer in place.

Passive screening means that those entering the setting review screening questions themselves, and there is no verification of screening.



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## IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

As of March 31, 2023, there are no vaccination requirements in place to enter the Home.

## 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 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

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(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 policy on Fundamental Principal and Resident Bill of Rights

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