

Visiting Highland Wood or Hyland Crest During the Pandemic - Updated March 31, 2023

Notice: Highland Wood and Hyland Crest have additional enhanced precautions when outbreaks exist and additional precautions may be implemented without advanced notice during this time.

As Ontario approaches the end of respiratory illness season, on March 31, 2023, the province is updating its COVID-19 measures in long-term care homes in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

As of April 3, 2023 the following measures are required at HHHS:

- Passive screening questions will be posted at all entrances and it is a requirement that those entering HHHS review these screening questions themselves each time they enter.
- Visitors must sign in/out using the Visitor Sign In/Out logs, as it is important to know who is in the building in the event of an emergency.

As of April 3, 2023 the following measures are no longer required at HHHS:

- Active screening prior to entering LTC.
- Rapid testing of all staff, caregivers and visitors and volunteers prior to entering LTC. (Asymptomatic) rapid testing is available for staff and anyone who requests it, but must be completed on your own in the designated area on-site.
- Visitor masking outdoors - although wearing a mask outdoors continues to be recommended for staff when they are close to a resident.
- Daily temperature checks or screening of residents returning from an absence/visiting outside of the home
- The limit of one caregiver at a time during a COVID-19 outbreak, or when a resident is symptomatic or isolating, unless otherwise recommended by Public Health.
- Physical distancing for social and physical activities

These changes are being adjusted by the province to reflect the high vaccine uptake among residents and the availability of safe and effective antivirals that are reducing the risk of severe outcomes to residents. These changes will bring Ontario into alignment with other provinces across the country that have already made similar adjustments.

What is not changing at this time:

- Resources on proper IPAC etiquette while in the home (i.e., putting on a medical mask, and hand washing) will continue to be available to all that enter, including Public Health Ontario Resources.
- Information on what steps to take if you fail the passive screening questions will be available at the entrance to LTC.
- Proof of vaccination is not required to enter Highland Wood or Hyland Crest.

- Those that visit or work in LTC homes must continue to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 as per public health guidelines (see link) and stay away if you are experiencing any symptoms or have had close contact with someone with COVID-19. <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-self-monitor.pdf>
- Indoor masking requirements remain in place while in the LTC home.
- Masking when a family member or friend is visiting with a resident in their bedroom is still strongly encouraged.
- Visitors are not permitted to eat or drink in common areas during their visit due to masking requirements.

Please note that in the event of an outbreak, the home will follow the guidance of the Public Health Department as related to specific protocols that may be reinstated.

While you are here:

- Clean your hands often
- Wear a medical mask provided by HHHS
- Maintain two metres (six feet) of physical distancing from all other residents, staff and visitors
- Visit only with the individual you specified on entry

Virtual Visits

Face-time or SKYPE visits are available for family and friends who live out of town, or who are unable to visit in person. Please contact our Activities Department to book an appointment:

- Highland Wood – (705) 457-1392, extension 2247
- Hyland Crest – (705) 457-8629 (cell – call or text)