



**Changes are being made to the public health order related to family presence/visitor restrictions to support greater family presence in long-term care and personal care home facilities:**

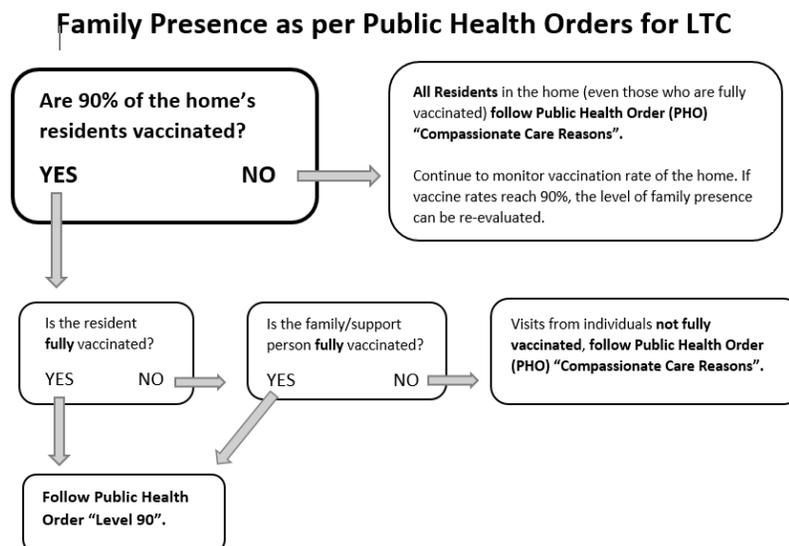
- Because of the protective effect of the COVID-19 vaccines, homes that have reached 90% of residents being fully vaccinated and are three weeks post the last dose can follow these “Level 90” guidelines:
  - Residents can designate an unlimited number of family /support people
  - Up to two family/support people can be present at one time
  - Fully vaccinated residents may leave on a day pass and not have to quarantine upon return
  - Unvaccinated residents can have family presence with individuals who have received two doses of vaccine at least three weeks prior.
- The decision to lift restrictions will be made on a by-facility basis. Local Medical Health Officers may decide that local conditions require greater restrictions in a facility, possibly due to local transmission rates or an outbreak in a facility.
- Measures to minimize risk of transmission between residents and visitors, including mask use, temperature screening, hand hygiene and rapid testing should continue.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**1. When over 90% of the residents in a long-term care home are fully vaccinated, can residents who aren't fully vaccinated also have family presence?**

Unvaccinated residents in a home with 90% vaccine completion can receive Level 90 family presence as long as their designated family/support persons are fully vaccinated.

Unvaccinated residents and unvaccinated family member/support persons may only visit for compassionate care reasons. This means for quality of life, unmet care needs or end-of-life situations.





**2. What is meant by fully vaccinated?**

The term fully vaccinated refers to people who have received their second dose of vaccine and 3 weeks have passed since the last dose.

**3. Can the designated family member/support person be asked for proof of vaccination? How is that information collected and stored?**

Yes. Staff will make a note in the health record with: (1) the date the family member/support person's vaccination was received; (2) acknowledgement the staff member saw the vaccination card as proof. A copy of the vaccination card is not needed. The designated family member/support person does not need to show their vaccination card again after this record has been made.

**4. My loved one in long-term care isn't vaccinated yet, but they would like to be. What do I do?**

Contact the care team or manager in your home and resident vaccination will be prioritized.

**5. As a designated family member/support person, I am not able to be vaccinated yet due to age. Can I get vaccinated earlier to allow me to visit an unvaccinated resident?**

No, but visits can still occur for an unvaccinated resident under compassionate care guidelines.

**6. Why do essential family members/supports need to be vaccinated to support an unvaccinated resident but health care workers are not required to be vaccinated?**

All health care providers are encouraged to be vaccinated as soon the vaccine is available to them and there are ongoing strategies to try to increase vaccinations among health care workers. Please note that some individuals may have medical indications or religious beliefs that prevent vaccination.

**7. If a resident is not able to be vaccinated for personal, medical or religious reasons, can they appeal the family presence restrictions?**

Concerns should be forwarded to the Manager and/or Quality of Care Coordinator. If not resolved, appeals should be forwarded to the Family Presence Support Team.

**8. Are there changes to resident outings with this new guidance for family presence?**

Level 90: Residents can access the community on a day pass if they are able to follow the current Public Health Order. If the resident is fully vaccinated, they will not be required to quarantine upon return to the home. Outside of Level 90, patient day passes, essential appointments and access to healing centres will be determined in consultation with the care team.

**9. Who will track the rates of vaccination for each home and how often will they be reviewed?**

Each Integrated Health Incident Command Centre is responsible to develop a process for the weekly review of long-term care home vaccination rates.

**10. What happens if our vaccination rate drops below 90%?**

Processes are under development for the review and maintenance of the 90% vaccination rate. The review of family presence restrictions and any changes will be coordinated through each Integrated Health Incident Command Centre (IHICC) in partnership with Medical Health Officers. It is recognized that with resident

# COVID-19



## Frequently Asked Questions Vaccination and Family Presence in Long-Term Care

turnover, the vaccination rate may fluctuate. Also, every effort will be made to prioritize new long-term care residents for vaccination.