

Purpose

Fraser Health is taking the necessary precautions to provide the best care in a safe environment for our patients, residents, visitors, staff and medical staff. This document is intended to provide safe direction for all Fraser Health entry points into the health care system to determine visitors' risk for COVID-19 infection. These directions may be updated as required with renewed direction from the Ministry of Health. The screening document pertains to COVID-19-like signs and symptoms or exposure risk factors to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread.

Scope

This document is applicable to all entry points of Fraser Health care facilities, including emergency departments and inpatient units, acute care outpatient clinics and programs, community settings including long-term care, assisted living, mental health and substance use, community clinics, physician offices, shelters, and day programs. For the purpose of this document, visitors are defined as any person who comes to a health care facility solely to visit or accompany a patient.

Visitors to Acute Care Facilities

Follow the current guidance for visitation in the [Ministry of Health – Overview of Visitors in Acute Care](#) and the Fraser Health [Family Presence Policy – Acute Care COVID-19 Visitation](#). Generally, up to one visitor per patient is permitted at a time in high-risk settings (e.g., critical care, ED, COVID-19 cohorts) and up to two visitors in all other areas. For visits to COVID-19 positive patients please see the [IPC Recommendations for Management of Admitted COVID-19 Patients in Acute Care \[SOP\]](#). The Ministry of Health has announced that visitors to acute care facilities will need to show proof of full vaccination, effective November 5, 2021.

Visitors to Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities

Follow the current guidance for visitation in the [Ministry of Health - Overview of Visitors in Long-Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living](#) and the Fraser Health [Visitation Table: Long-Term Care and Assisted Living](#).

Guidelines**Vaccination**

- All visitors must be fully vaccinated and able to produce proof of vaccination upon entrance to Fraser Health facilities. If visitors are unable to produce proof of vaccination, visitors shall not be permitted to visit (excluding children under 12 years or those with an approved medical exemption). Exceptions can be made as outlined in the [Ministry of Health – Overview of Visitors in Acute Care](#) or [Ministry of Health - Overview of Visitors in Long-Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living](#).
 - Exceptions in acute care include:
 - Visitors with approved medical exemption
 - Young children under the age of vaccine eligibility
 - Visits for compassionate care, including critical illness, palliative care, hospice care, end-of-life and medical assistance in dying
 - Visits for pediatric care, labour, and delivery
 - Emergency and ICU
 - Visits paramount to the patient's physical care and mental well-being
 - Visits for supportive decision making

Rapid Point of Care Testing

- All visitors to LTC/AL* who are 12 years of age and older must complete rapid point-of-care testing at the entrance (*includes AL if co-located with LTC).
- Repeated rPOC testing is not required for visitors who leave the facility and return the same day.
- Regular visitors do not undergo rPOC testing more than 3 times a week
- rPOC testing may be conducted at the site or community prior to a visit. An rPOC test conducted in the community must be done within 48 hours of the visit and communicated as part of the screening process at the site.

Signs and Symptoms

- All visitors must check in with the site or unit screener to be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and provided a medical mask, if needed.
 - The site or unit screener can ask each visitor the COVID-19 Risk Assessment questions. Or
 - Have visitors complete a self-screen survey using the [COVID-19 BC Self-Assessment Tool](#) and provide proof of completion.
- Visitors with signs or symptoms of COVID-19, who are COVID-19 positive, as well as those in self-isolation in accordance with public health directives, shall not be permitted to visit. A pre-approved exemption may be made for visitors in end-of-life circumstances.

Visitor Masking

- Visitors are required to wear a medical grade mask in adherence to the [Mask Use in Health Care Facilities and Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic \[Guidelines\]](#)
 - For details on mask requirements, proper mask use and exemptions to the mask use policy, refer to the [Mask Use in Health Care Facilities and Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic \[Guidelines\]](#)
- Staff should educate visitors when to perform hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and safe physical distancing
- Staff must instruct visitors how to put on and remove any required personal protective equipment (PPE) when visiting or caring for patients/clients/residents who are on additional precautions (e.g. Contact or Droplet Precautions)
- In LTC/AL, if visitors are expected after hours when site screeners are not at facility entrances, sites must implement a screening process for visitors upon arrival to the unit/department
- Site leadership is responsible for assigning a representative to assist staff with visitors who refuse to comply with the screening requirements including mandatory vaccination and masking.

References

[Ministry of Health COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control \[Policy Communique\];](#)

[Ministry of Health Mask Use in Health Care Facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic \[Policy Communique\];](#)

[Ministry of Health – Overview of Visitors in Acute Care](#)

[Ministry of Health - Overview of Visitors in Long-Term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living;](#)

[BCCDC COVID-19 Testing Guidelines for British Columbia;](#)

[Mask Use in Health Care Facilities and Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic \[Guidelines\];](#)

[COVID-19 Exemption to Quarantine Act for Compassionate Reasons \[Guidance\]](#)

Visitor Screening

Please follow the most current Fraser Health visitor guidelines for the care setting. **Upon entry to Fraser Health facility, visitor is to:**

- Sanitize their hands first
- Complete COVID-19 Risk Assessment,
- Put on a new medical mask in adherence to the [Mask Use in Health Care Facilities and Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic \[Guidelines\]](#)
- Keep two meters distance between others when possible

2. Verification of vaccination status

- Visitors will be asked to provide proof of full vaccination (e.g., BC vaccine card or equivalent) and proof of identity
- Screener to scan QR code, if applicable, to confirm full vaccination status
- If no proof of vaccination, screener will ask purpose of visit to see if visit meets any of the following
Exemption and exception criteria:
 - Visitors with approved medical exemption
 - Young children under the age of vaccine eligibility
 - Visits for compassionate care, including critical illness, palliative care, hospice care, end-of-life and medical assistance in dying
 - Visits for pediatric care, labour, and delivery
 - Emergency and ICU
 - Visits paramount to the patient's physical care and mental well-being
 - Visits for supported decision making

3. Rapid Point of Care (rPOC) Testing

- All visitors to LTC/AL* who are 12 years of age and older will be asked to complete rapid point-of-care testing at the entrance (*includes AL if co-located with LTC).
- Repeated rPOC testing is not required for visitors who leave the facility and return the same day.
- Regular visitors do not undergo rPOC testing more than 3 times a week
- rPOC testing may be conducted at the site or community prior to a visit. An rPOC test conducted in the community must be done within 48 hours of the visit and communicated as part of the screening process at the site.
- Fully vaccinated visitors who test positive after an rPOC test will not be permitted to enter the site and will be instructed to self-isolate for 5 days from symptom onset and avoid high risk settings like LTC for additional 5 days after ending isolation.

4. As part of the screening process, the visitor will be asked the following questions and follow the appropriate process below:

| COVID-19 Risk Assessment (check all that apply) | | |
|--|---|--------------|
| 1. Does the visitor have new or worsening COVID-19 like symptoms? | | |
| ▪ Fever | ▪ Sore throat | ▪ Body aches |
| ▪ Cough | ▪ Loss of sense of smell | ▪ Nausea |
| ▪ Difficulty breathing | ▪ Loss of sense of taste | ▪ Vomiting |
| ▪ Headache | ▪ Loss of appetite | ▪ Diarrhea |
| ▪ Chills | ▪ Extreme fatigue or tiredness | |
| 2. Does the visitor have a risk factor for COVID-19 exposure? Is the visitor currently: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Under federal quarantine order due to travel outside of Canada? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Self-isolating due to COVID-19? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No | |

If **NO** to all the symptom and exposure questions, follow the visitor guidelines outlined on page 1.

If **YES** to any of these questions, the visitor will not be permitted to visit. . If a symptomatic and/or COVID-19 laboratory-confirmed visitor is approved to enter the facility by Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) or the Medical Health Officer for compassionate/end-of-life reasons, appropriate Infection Prevention and Control measures must be in place prior to the visit.

COVID-19 Visitor and Family Screening

The COVID-19 Visitor and Family Screening Form can be completed prior to entering the long-term care/assisted living facility.

Visitor Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First

Phone number: _____ Time in: _____

Reason for entry: Visit with resident Contractor/vendor Interpreter
 Other: _____

Name of patient/ client/resident visiting: _____ Unit or room #: _____
(if applicable) Last First

| COVID-19 Risk Assessment (check all that apply) | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Does the visitor have new or worsening COVID-19 like symptoms? | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever | <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat | <input type="checkbox"/> Body aches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cough | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of sense of smell | <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of sense of taste | <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headache | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of appetite | <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chills | <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme fatigue or tiredness | |
| 2. Does the visitor have a risk factor for COVID-19 exposure? Is the visitor currently: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Under federal quarantine order due to travel outside of Canada? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Self-isolating due to COVID-19? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No | |

I certify that the above information is true and accurate.

Signature: _____

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