

Slovenian Linden Foundation o/a Dom Lipa ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER POLICY

This policy is intended to protect residents, staff and visitors at Dom Lipa (the home) from the risk of COVID-19.

Essential Caregiver visits are critical to supporting a resident's care needs and emotional well-being.

An essential caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident (e.g., supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision-making).

- Caregivers must be at least 18 years of age
- A maximum of 2 caregivers may be designated per resident at a time
- The designation should be made in writing to the home
- Dom Lipa has a procedure for documenting caregiver designations
- The decision to designate an individual as a caregiver is entirely the remit of the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker
- A resident and/or their substitute decision-maker may change a designation in response to a change in the: Resident's care needs that are reflected in the plan of care, availability of a designated caregiver, either temporary (e.g., illness) or permanent.

Examples of caregivers include family members who provide meaningful connection, a privately hired caregiver, paid companions and translators.

Prior to visiting any resident for the first time after this policy is released, and at least once every two weeks thereafter

- Dom Lipa will ask caregivers to verbally attest to the home that they have tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous two weeks and not subsequently tested positive. Dom Lipa will not provide the testing.
- Dom Lipa will ask caregivers to verbally attest to the home that, in the last 14 days, they have not visited another:
 - Person who is self-isolating or symptomatic; and/or
 - Home in an outbreak.

Training

Dom Lipa will provide training to caregivers that addresses how to safely provide direct care, including putting on and taking off required PPE, and hand hygiene.

Dom Lipa will provide retraining to caregivers, the frequency of retraining will be determined on case by case basis and as a minimum monthly.

Prior to visiting any resident for the first time after this policy is released, and at least once every month thereafter, the home will ask caregivers to verbally attest to the home that they have read/re-read the home's visitor policy.

Essential Caregivers will follow guidance from the following **Public Health Ontario resources** (<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/long-term-care-resources>) to support IPAC and PPE education and training: Guidance document entitled **Recommended Steps: Putting on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps>

Video entitled **Putting on Full Personal Protective Equipment.**
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-on>

Video entitled **Taking off Full Personal Protective Equipment.**
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-off>

Video entitled **How to Hand Wash.**
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-handwash>

Screening

The screening requirements in Directive #3 apply to all types of visitors. All visitors will be actively screened on entry for any of the typical and atypical symptoms and exposures for COVID-19, including temperature checks and not be admitted if they do not pass the screening.

PPE

Essential Caregivers must wear PPE as required in Directive #3

*Failure to use PPE properly will result in a discontinuation of visits for the non-compliant caregiver.

Managing Safe Visits

To maintain the safety of our residents, staff and visitors Dom Lipa requires consistency of essential caregiver visits. Dom Lipa does not require scheduling and does not restrict the length or frequency of visits by essential caregivers.

- Essential Caregivers are advised to establish consistent caregiving intervals
- Essential Caregivers will provide care only in the resident's room or a location agreed upon with DOC, person responsible for Infection Control at Dom Lipa.

*Dom Lipa reserves the right to limit the number of Essential Caregivers in the building at one time to maintain a safe environment for the residents, employees and caregivers.

*In the case that Dom Lipa experiences a shortage of PPE the Essential Caregiver visits will be limited or discontinued.

Non-compliance

Every effort will be provided to supporting Essential Caregivers in understanding and adhering to the home's policy.

Non-compliance with the Essential Caregiver Policy could result in a discontinuation of visits for the non-compliant caregiver.

Where Dom Lipa has previously ended a visit by, or temporarily prohibited an essential caregiver, Dom Lipa will specify any education/ training the caregiver may need to complete before visiting the home again.

Dom Lipa has the discretion to end a visit by any caregiver who repeatedly fails to adhere to the home's policy, provided:

- Dom Lipa has explained the applicable requirement(s) to the caregiver;
- The caregiver has the resources to adhere to the requirement(s) (e.g., there is sufficient space to physically distance, the home has supplied the PPE and demonstrated how to correctly put on PPE, etc.);
- The caregiver has been given sufficient time to adhere to the requirement(s).

Dom Lipa will document where they will end a visit due to non-adherence.

Dom Lipa has the discretion to temporarily prohibit a caregiver in response to repeated and flagrant non-adherence with the Essential Caregiver policy.

In exercising this discretion, Dom Lipa will consider whether the non-adherence:

- Can be resolved successfully by explaining and demonstrating how the caregiver can adhere to the requirements.
- Is within requirements that align with instruction in Directive #3 and guidance in this policy.
- Negatively impacts the health and safety of residents, staff and other visitors in the home.
- Is demonstrated continuously by the caregiver over multiple visits.
- Is by a caregiver whose previous visits have been ended by the home.

Any decision to temporarily prohibit a caregiver

- will be made only after all other reasonable efforts to maintain safety during visits have been exhausted
- will stipulate a reasonable length of the prohibition
- will clearly identify what requirements the caregiver should meet before visits may be resumed (e.g. reviewing the home's visitor policy, reviewing specific Public Health Ontario resources, etc.)
- will be documented by the home.

Where the home has temporarily prohibited a caregiver, the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker may need to designate an alternate individual as caregiver to help meet the resident's care needs.