

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Resident Absences under COVID-19 Directive #3 for Long-Term Care Homes under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*

August 28, 2020

Q1. Can residents now leave the home to visit with family and friends?

Yes, residents may leave the home's property on a short stay or temporary absence.

Residents may leave the home's property for a short stay absence for health care-related, social, or other reasons. A short stay absence does not include an overnight stay, with the exception of single-night emergency room visits.

Emergency room visits that take place over a single night (e.g. assessment and discharge from the emergency department spans one overnight period) should also be considered equivalent to an outpatient medical visit that does not require testing or self-isolation upon return.

Residents may leave the home's property for a temporary absence (one or more nights) for personal reasons. Homes must review and approve the temporary absence based on a case-by-case risk assessment as outlined in Directive #3.

If the home denies a temporary absence request, the home must communicate this to the resident/substitute decision maker in writing, including the rationale for this decision.

Q2. Are medical visits considered short stay absences?

As per Directive #3, outpatient medical visits are considered a short stay absence.

Emergency rooms visits that take place over a single night are considered equivalent to an outpatient medical visit.

If a resident is returning from emergency room visits that take place over two or more nights or was admitted to a hospital at any point, homes should follow the requirements for re-admissions under Directive #3.

Q3. What requirements must residents follow when they are away from the home on an absence?

Residents on a short stay absence must wear a medical mask at all times when outside the home (if tolerated). The home must provide the medical mask and remind residents about the importance of public health measures including physical distancing.

Q4. What is required when a resident is returning from a short stay or temporary absence?

Residents returning from a short stay absence must be actively screened but are not required to be tested or self-isolate.

All residents returning from a temporary absence are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon their return.