

From: [Hakkarainen, Sanja](#)
To: [zzAll Users](#)
Subject: New IMS Blog: IMS BLOG #48 COVID-19 - Section 22 Long-term Care Homes
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 1:08:27 PM

FYI: Please see below the IMS blog posted to the SMDHU Intranet

To all staff:

Today I issued a class order under Section 22 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act to immediately restrict all indoor visits at long-term care homes to one essential visitor at a time and suspend general visiting to protect the vulnerable elderly residents from COVID-19 transmission.

Recent weeks have seen significant and continually increasing incidence of COVID-19. In Simcoe Muskoka, the incidence has increased to 24.1 cases/100,000 persons for the week of October 25 from an estimated 5.4 cases /100,000 persons for the week of September 6, 2020.

The order applies to all long-term care homes in Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. It does not apply to retirement homes or other congregate care settings at this time; however, we are monitor the situation for possible further action.

The order was issued to reduce the risk and protect residents of long-term care homes who are so vulnerable because of their age, their care needs and the closed nature of the homes that can facilitate the spread of COVID-19. It also protects the staff caring for them.

Essential visitors are identified as a person who is not a member of the facility's staff but is performing essential support services such as healthcare or maintenance; a person visiting a very ill or palliative resident; or a caregiver designated by the resident or their substitute decision maker who comes in to provide direct care and support to the resident.

This ensures that a family member or designate who comes in to help a resident with their meals, personal hygiene, mental stimulation, communications or other needs will not be prevented from visiting. A maximum of two caregivers may be designated as essential for a resident at this time.

Under the order residents are not to leave the facilities for short-stay or temporary absences except for those required for healthcare. Outdoor onsite visits can continue with two metre distancing precautions.

The order is intended to strike a balance to address both the physical danger of contracting COVID-19 and the importance of addressing the mental health needs of residents living in these care settings. While they are restrictive they reflect the immediate and serious danger posed by the growing number of cases.

You can find detailed information about the order on the [website COVID-19 pages](#).

Sincerely,
Chuck Gardner, MOH

This can also be accessed by clicking the following link:

<http://intranet.smdhu.net/home/IMSBlog/ims-blog/2020/11/03/ims-blog-48-covid-19-section-22-long-term-care-homes>