

Caregivers Policy

What defines a Caregiver?

- A caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the resident and/or substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident such as assistance with feeding, mobility, personal hygiene supporting residents in care and maintaining the residents mental and emotional well-being.

Who can be a caregiver?

- Caregivers must be at least **16** years of age
- The designation must be made in writing.
- A max of 4 caregivers may be designated per resident if fully vaccinated. (Unless designated prior to Dec 15/21 may continue with plan)
- Examples of caregivers include family members who provide meaningful connection, a privately hired caregiver, paid companions, and translators.
- RVG will ask caregivers to review the RVG Caregiver & Visiting policies and relevant PPE training monthly, with signature when completed

Active Screening /Antigen Testing / Immunization

- Caregiver is actively screened on arrival to the home for symptoms and exposures for COVID-19
- [Asymptomatic screen testing](#) for COVID-19 via rapid antigen testing for caregivers is 2 times per week at a minimum. (Refer to *Visiting Policy*)
- Caregivers previously positive for COVID-19 are exempt from testing for 90 days, with proof of positive test result or symptoms validated by PHU
- Caregivers must have received their 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccine and show proof of vaccination with their QR code or valid medical exemption.
- Where Caregiver PASSES active screening, they are permitted entry, and must follow public health guidance: wear surgical mask, maintain physical distancing, practice hand hygiene, self monitor, and respect respiratory etiquette.
- Caregiver who FAILS screening is advised to go home, self isolate, notify health care provider.

End-of-Life (EOL) Visitation Exception:

- If Caregiver FAILS screening, they are permitted entry wearing full PPE, maintain distancing and restricted to resident's room.
- Up to **5** visitors may visit at one time.
- Visitors log time in and time out at screening desk

Access to homes

- RVG supports residents' rights for visitations and allows for up to **4** visitors at one time for indoor visits in RVG courtyard, care unit sunrooms, walks in halls and balcony on a non-outbreak unit.
- Outdoor visits allowed regardless of vaccination status; masks encouraged but not required outdoors.
- Only 1 caregiver permitted access to home when a resident is self-isolating or symptomatic, or the unit/home is in an outbreak. (see EOL exception)
- Caregivers may assist residents during activities and meal service, wearing a mask, however physical distancing not required on non outbreak areas.
- Social day and overnight absences permitted for regardless of resident vaccination status. RVG provides a mask along with reminders about public health measure while out in the community.
- The resident is actively screened upon return with PCR test on day 5. No isolation required unless resident is symptomatic or close contact with individual with DCOVID-19

Hand Hygiene & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Prior to first visit as designated caregiver, the home will provide training that addresses how to safely provide direct care, including proper hand hygiene and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and how to don (put on) and doff (take off) properly.
- The home will also provide retraining as appropriate i.e., when policy changes or PPE, and IPAC measures refresh training, and per ministry directive.
- Caregivers must wear a surgical mask, covering nose, mouth, and chin for both indoor & outdoors visits regardless of their immunization status.

Sample: putting on & taking off PPE steps:

PUTTING ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT		REMOVING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	
1	PERFORM HAND HYGIENE	1	REMOVE GLOVES
2	PUT ON GOWN	2	REMOVE GOWN
3	PUT ON MASK OR N95 RESPIRATOR	3	PERFORM HAND HYGIENE
4	PUT ON EYE PROTECTION	4	REMOVE EYE PROTECTION
5	PUT ON GLOVES	5	REMOVE MASK OR N95 RESPIRATOR
		6	PERFORM HAND HYGIENE

NOTE: Homes have the discretion to end a visit or temporarily prohibit a visitor in response to repeated and flagrant non-adherence with the home's Visiting Policy April 2022.