



Long Term & Continuing Care
Association of Manitoba

L'Association de soins continus
et à long terme du Manitoba

Mandatory COVID-19 Immunization for ALL Visitors

October 13, 2021

The Long Term and Continuing Care Association of Manitoba (LTCAM) supports the implementation of mandatory immunization policies for all visitors in order to safeguard long term and continuing care¹ residents and staff.

Community infection rates continue to remain high. These rates place our residents and staff at risk of the virus being brought into the Personal Care Homes and Supportive Housing Residences. The government has provided support to LTCAM providers implementing vaccination screening processes to address the current high COVID-19 numbers in our province. The majority of residents are fully immunized, with 3rd booster doses just being organized which will dramatically reduce the severity of outcomes of COVID-19 outbreaks among residents. Long term and continuing care staff have additionally been mandated to be fully immunized, with accommodation at some Personal Care Homes and Supportive Housing Residences, leaving designated family caregivers (visitors) as the only group regularly accessing homes with no restrictions or current requirement to show proof of vaccination.

LTCAM recognizes the integral role of visitors and Designated Family Caregivers as part of the care team and in promoting the wellbeing of residents. In order to sustain safer visitor access to Personal Care Homes and Supportive Housing Residences, LTCAM supports mandatory vaccination for Designated Family Caregivers.

LTCAM supports the following Visitor Guideline Recommendations:

- Mandatory vaccination policies for all visitors, including Designated Family Caregivers, are recommended, requiring proof of full vaccination for Personal Care Homes and Supportive Housing Residences access (two doses received at least 2 weeks prior to visits).
- Given the essential role of Designated Family Caregivers in care provision and resident support, policies could potentially include accommodations for unvaccinated Designated Family Caregivers, requiring COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Screening (rapid testing) prior to visits, or testing at the Personal Care Homes and Supportive Housing Residences should capacity be available.

¹ Personal Care Homes and Supportive Housing Residences