

Visitation with Residents and Families at Bethany Didsbury – 07 May, 2021

Dear Families and Residents,

As a result of feedback from residents and families, continuing care staff and operators across Alberta, updated public health measures will come into effect for continuing care sites on May 10. These protocols will allow for an increase in the number of designated family/support persons (DFSPs) for each resident, expand the number of people who can attend outdoor social visits and allow limited indoor social gatherings.

Access to indoor visitation shall be determined by the desire of the majority (51%) of responding residents for social visitors, informed by resident survey.

Based on the results of the survey: indoor social visitors are not permitted at this time (73% are in favour of keeping the current restrictions in place). This policy will be reviewed every 6 weeks. This does NOT apply to DFSPs or outdoor social visitation which are still permitted at this time.

Effective **May 10**, the following changes to visitation policy will take effect:

- Residents may name up to four (4) DFSPs for unrestricted visitation. All DFSPs must complete safe visiting practice education before their initial visit (education is found at the screening desk and emailed in advance).
- Outdoor social visitation numbers can increase, space and resource permitting
- There is no age restriction on visitors
- Eye protection is no longer required for all visitors unless the site goes into outbreak

Please note:

- 1. All visitation MUST be pre-booked with the site** (*see table below*).
- 2. If Bethany Didsbury goes into outbreak, outdoor social visits will be cancelled**

Resident and employee safety remains our priority, and all other COVID-19 measures remain in place, including:

- Screening for all DFSPs and social visitors
- Masking and distancing during visits, even if you and/or the resident has been fully vaccinated
- Indoor DFSPs visitation will remain in the resident's room (*see table for further details*)
- DFSPs/Visitors cannot eat or drink during visitation
- If Bethany Didsbury goes into outbreak, DFSPs must wear a shield while in the building

If a visitor breaches the guidelines, then future visits may be suspended. Bethany Didsbury reserves the right to cancel scheduled outdoor visits due to inclement weather, space shortage or limited staffing resources.

We understand this announcement is welcome news to residents and families and we appreciate your patience as we implement this order at Bethany Didsbury. We ask that you carefully review the process for scheduling a visit (refer to the visitor guidelines), as well as the steps we are taking to ensure all our residents and employees remain safe.

Connecting with your loved ones is important and Bethany will continue to help ensure that you can do this through technology and by carefully following our visitor guidelines.

<p>Arranging visitation in Designated Spaces</p>	<p>We are providing enhanced access to DFSPs, with the exception of end-of-life visitation.</p> <p>We recommend that DFSPs evaluate their own need to be on-site in relation to your loved one's care needs to help limit the number of people entering the site.</p> <p>Indoor Visitation: Indoor social visitors are not permitted at this time. This does NOT apply to DFSPs.</p> <p>Outdoor Visitation: Numbers can increase based on space and resources permitting. As Bethany Didsbury is currently in outbreak – outdoor visits may be cancelled</p> <p>Please contact the site to arrange visitation.</p>
<p>Number of visitors permitted</p>	<p>For DFSPs, residents (or alternate decision maker) may name up to four (4) individuals for this role for indoor visitation.</p> <p>Indoor Visitation: up to four (4) visitors provided they are from the same household</p> <p>Outdoor Visitation: Numbers can increase based on space and resources permitting</p>
<p>Visitor profile</p>	<p>DFSPs: residents (or alternate decision maker) may name up to four (4) individuals for this role. The site leadership (social worker) must be informed of these individuals in advance of their visit to the site.</p>

Children as visitors	No age restriction on social visitors; under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
Pets as visitors	Pets that accompany a designated family/support person must comply with our Bethany pet policy requirements.
Location of visitation	<p>Indoor visitation will take place in the resident's room following screening at the building main entrance. Please sign out at the screening table after your visit.</p> <p>Visiting with any other resident will not be permitted.</p> <p>Contact the site for information on outdoor common areas for visitation.</p>
Safety Precautions	<p>All visitors must be screened and wear Bethany provided appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the duration of the visit. This includes continuous eye protection and masks for all staff and visitors in the building.</p> <p>Residents and visitors will perform hand hygiene before and after the visit and wear appropriate PPE for the duration of the visit.</p> <p>Continuous masking and distancing during visits, even if you and/or the resident has been fully vaccinated.</p> <p>DFSPs and social visitors cannot eat or drink during visitation.</p> <p>If the site goes into outbreak, DFSPs and social visitors must wear a shield while in the building.</p> <p>Non-compliance with site practice may affect future visits.</p>
Instances where visitation will not be permitted	All DFSP visits will be strongly discouraged during an outbreak. If DFSPs need to visit they will be required to wear appropriate PPE for the duration of their visit in the resident room.

	<p>If a visitor breaches the guidelines including physical distancing, future visits may be suspended.</p>
<p>Guidelines for end-of-life visitation</p>	<p>3 visitors will be permitted to visit residents in private resident rooms only where we can assure the required 2-meter physical distancing.</p> <p>End-of-life is at the discretion of site management in consultation with the attending physician and is defined as the last 4-6 weeks of life.</p> <p>The process of end-of-life visitation is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors will be screened and escorted by site staff to the resident room and remain in the room for the duration of the visit • Visiting with any other resident will not be permitted • Masks to be worn provided by Bethany throughout visit (instruction on how to wear PPE will be given) • Hand hygiene etiquette to be performed on entry to and exit from resident room and when leaving/returning to the facility

We know these are important developments for our residents and families and are pleased to be able to provide opportunities for visitation with loved ones.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we ensure these guidelines are implemented appropriately and safely to minimize the risk and prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 at Bethany Didsbury.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Smyth,
Site Administrator, Bethany Didsbury