

PURPOSE

People who use Christian Horizons' services are excited to invite their family and friends over to meet safely.

This guide – a combination of previous guidelines and recent updates – helps teams know how to support people through these visits, where permitted, based on Ministry of Health guidance effective June 26th, 2023. We will continue to adapt to align with government and public health directions.

FAMILY AND FRIEND VISITS

Connections with families and friends are crucial to people's happiness and wellbeing. While we *foster belonging* using technology where possible, nothing can really replace an in-person visit.

The following guidelines describe how Christian Horizons will support people and their family and friends in meeting the visitor expectations outlined by MOH.

TYPES OF VISITORS:

There are **two** types of visitors as per MCCSS guidelines: Essential, and Non-Essential:

An **Essential Visitor** is generally someone who *“performs essential services to support the ongoing operation of a service agency (including a contractor)” and/or who is “considered necessary to maintain the health, wellness and safety, or any applicable legal rights, of a congregate care resident.”* An essential visitor may include, but is not limited to, a parent/guardian, social service workers (e.g., child welfare workers, day program operators etc.), health care providers (e.g., doctor, nurse, personal support workers etc.), and inspectors from MCCSS or public health unit.

A **Non-Essential Visitor** is someone who *does not meet the definition of an Essential Visitor.*

IN HOME VISITS

PREPARING FOR A VISIT – NO OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 IN THE HOME:

1. Visitors to a Christian Horizons location are to complete passive screening on arrival.
 - a. Visitors to our support locations with symptoms of COVID-19 will avoid visits until they are fever free, and symptoms have been improving for 24hrs (48hrs if vomiting and diarrhea)
 - b. Following symptom improvement, if the visitor tested positive (or chooses not to test) for COVID-19 they will wear a mask while at the location during the 10 days after symptom onset. If the visitor tests negative for COVID-19 they are not required to wear a mask.
2. If mask requirements are in place for the home (following district guidelines) a mask will be provided to the visitor.
3. It is encouraged that physical distancing be observed if the person supported is immunocompromised.

PREPARING FOR A VISIT – ACTIVE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 IN THE HOME:

1. Non-essential visitors are to postpone their visit
2. Essential visitors can still enter the home but will be required to follow appropriate PPE guidance.

OVERNIGHT VISITS

There are no restrictions on **overnight absences** (e.g., to a family home) the following guidelines are encouraged upon return home of the person supported:

1. The person will be supported to complete screening on their return
2. The person will have the option to complete a Rapid Antigen Test
3. Daily symptom monitoring will continue.

VISITS IN THE COMMUNITY

The following are a few important reminders of how teams can help support people who use our services to safely visit in the community:

- 1) Exercise appropriate precautions while out in the community (e.g. practice respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, avoid crowded places, practice physical distancing and wear mask when suggested/required).
- 2) Follow community guidelines related to public health measures.
- 3) When the person returns home, support them to undergo passive screening for signs and symptoms of COVID 19. Those who show symptoms of COVID-19 or anyone who wishes to, will be supported to get tested.

The [Safety in Your Community Social Story](#), [Rules and Risks Social Story](#), and [Going out? Do it Safely](#) can be used to help people understand or explain how to safely spend time in the community.