

St Jacobs Place COVID-19 Protocols for Resident Absences

The protocols below reflect changes effective **April 13, 2022**, that must be followed by all residents who leave for absences, as applicable.

There are four types of absences:

1. **Medical absences** are absences to seek medical and/or health care.
 2. **Compassionate/palliative absences** are absences that include, but are not limited to, absences for the purposes of visiting a dying loved one.
 3. **Short term (day) absences** split into:
 - A. **Essential outings** – absences for reasons of groceries, pharmacies, and outdoor physical activity; and
 - B. **Social outings** - absences other than for medical, compassionate/palliative, or essential outings.
 4. **Temporary (overnight) absences** refer to absences for two or more days and one or more nights away from the home for non-medical purposes.
- For all types of absences, if a resident is unable to source at minimum a medical mask, one will be provided free of charge by the residence.
 - Residents will be reminded to practice public health measures, such as physical distancing (2 meters separation) and hand hygiene, while they are away from the residence. We require that resident's and/or their SDM/POA/Caregiver report to our Wellness Team if they will be away overnight and/or require medical documentation and/or medications for their absence. 48 hours advance notice is requested to ensure that all departments affected can plan to prepare in advance for their absence and/or return.
 - All residents on an absence, regardless of the type or duration of the absence, will be actively screened upon their return to the home. Resident's MUST enter and exit through the front door in order to accommodate this procedure. If a resident does not pass screening, the residence will follow existing isolation policies.
 - The residence will not restrict or deny any absences for medical or compassionate/ palliative reasons at any time. This includes when a resident is in isolation on additional Precautions and/or when a home is in an outbreak; in these situations, homes must consult their local public health unit for further advice. Absences for medical or compassionate/palliative reasons are the only absences permitted when the resident is in isolation on Droplet and Contact Precautions (due to symptoms, exposure, and/or diagnosis of COVID-19) or when the home is in outbreak.
 - Residents who are in isolation on additional precautions and/or reside in an area of the home that is in an outbreak cannot participate in essential, social or temporary absences.
 - Residents are permitted to go on Essential Outings, including walks either on or off the premises, at all times except when that resident is self-isolating and on Droplet and Contact Precautions, or as directed by the local PHU.

- Residents will not be permitted to start Short term (day) absences and Temporary (overnight) absences if the resident is isolating and on Droplet precautions, or as directed by our local Public Health Unit.
- Based on absence type, the following requirements will apply:

	Requirements (All Residents)
Short term (day) absence Essential outing and Social outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The residence will allow short term absences regardless of reason. Residents must follow public health measures during the absence Active screening is required on return If the resident has been exposed to a known COVID-19 case during their absence, they must be tested for COVID-19 with a PCR test on return to the home and isolate. If timely PCR tests are unavailable, the residence must perform 2 RATs separated by 24-48 hours, the first of which will be administered within 24 hours of returning to the home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents who are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations will be isolated until a PCR or RAT is taken on day 5 (if negative isolation may be discontinued). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents who are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations are required to isolate for 10 days from last contact (regardless of test results).
Temporary (overnight) absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The residence will allow overnight absences regardless of reason. Residents must follow public health measures during the absence. Active screening on return. All residents, regardless of vaccination status, are required to perform a RAT and a PCR test on day 5 of return. No isolation is required unless the resident receives a positive test result. If a timely PCR test is not available, on day 5 of return 2 RATs 24 hours apart may be used as an alternative. The residence will not deny entry to residents into their home while awaiting testing results and will not impose isolation of residents.

Note: Residents who are self-isolating under Contact and Droplet Precautions may only receive Essential Visitors.

References:

Directive #3 (March 14, 2022)

https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/directives/LTCH_HPPA.pdf

Retirement Homes Policy to Implement Directive #3 – April 13, 2022

https://mcusercontent.com/0f7b468f27a8cf1a453f09536/files/d20210d3-00be-1456-54f3-61686253ac2a/Retirement_Homes_Policy_to_Implement_Directive_3_April_13_2022.01.pdf

RHRA Scenario Matrix: Retirement Home Policy to Implement Directive #3 (December 23, 2021)

<https://www.rhra.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Scenario-Matrix-Dec-22-FINAL.pdf>

Appendix A – Symptoms List

Appendix B – How to Put on/Take off a Mask

Appendix A – Symptoms List

Source: Ministry of Health COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms (January 4, 2022)

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_reference_doc_symptoms.pdf



Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms

Version 9.0 – January 4, 2022

This document outlines the symptoms, signs, and clinical features that have been most commonly associated with COVID-19. This information is current as of January 4, 2022 and may be updated as the situation on COVID-19 continues to evolve. If there is a discrepancy between this list and other guidance, this list should be considered the most up to date information.

When assessing for the symptoms below the focus should be on evaluating if they are **new, worsening, or different from an individual's baseline health status (usual state)**. Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions (see examples below).

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 that require immediate self-isolation and, if eligible, COVID-19 testing include:

- **Fever** (temperature of 37.8°C/100.0°F or greater) and/or **chills**
- **Cough** (that is new or worsening (e.g. continuous, more than usual if chronic cough) including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing)
 - *Not related to other known causes or conditions for which current symptoms do not represent a flare-up/exacerbation related to infection (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)*
- **Shortness of breath** (dyspnea, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze, that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath)
 - *Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., chronic heart failure, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)*
- **Decrease or loss of smell or taste**
 - *Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., nasal polyps, allergies, neurological disorders)*

Two or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19 require immediate self-isolation and, if eligible, COVID-19 testing include:

- **Extreme fatigue, lethargy, or malaise** (general feeling of being unwell, lack of energy, extreme tiredness) that is unusual or unexplained
 - *Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, anemia, malignancy, receiving a COVID-19 or flu vaccine in the past 48 hours)*
- **Muscle aches or joint pain** that are unexplained, unusual, or long-lasting

Version 9.0
January 4, 2022

Refer to link above for full list of signs and symptoms.

Appendix B - How to Put on/Take off a Mask

HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

who.int/epi-win

Do's →

Wash your hands before touching the mask

Inspect the mask for tears or holes

Find the top side, where the metal piece or stiff edge is

Ensure the colored-side faces outwards

Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose

Cover your mouth, nose, and chin

Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides

Avoid touching the mask

Remove the mask from behind the ears or head

Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it

Discard the mask immediately after use preferably into a closed bin

Wash your hands after discarding the mask

Don'ts →

Do not Use a ripped or damp mask

Do not wear the mask only over mouth or nose

Do not wear a loose mask

Do not touch the front of the mask

Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or do other things that would require touching the mask

Do not leave your used mask within the reach of others

Do not re-use the mask

Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 2 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.

Source: World Health Organization ([Medical Mask](#)) *Poster modified to 2 metres