

July 18, 2020

Dear Copernicus Lodge LTC Family Members,

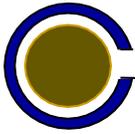
We know how difficult it has been for our residents, families and friends over the past few months in not being able to visit your loved ones indoors due to the restrictions put in place for COVID-19. Seeing and being able to dress and feed those you love is so important at the best of times and much more so during trying times like these. The absence of indoor visitors for such an extended period of time was a struggle for everyone at Copernicus Lodge, and we appreciate your understanding that our priority was and is keeping your loved ones safe and healthy.

We are so pleased with the Provincial Government's announcement that effective July 15, 2020 two family members could have outdoor visits with your loved one. Those families who are visiting outdoors will no longer be required to take the COVID testing; however, you will still be required to wear a mask and practice physical distancing. If weather does not permit an outdoor visit, we will do our best to accommodate you with a window visit. Please keep in mind that we may not be able to accommodate a full 30 minutes window visit.

The Ministry also issued a directive to allow two family members to visit indoors at a time. This directive will take effect on July 22, 2020 and we are delighted to inform you that we will be offering families indoor visits, outdoor visits, virtual visits and window visits. For those families who wish to have more than one indoor visit weekly, we will put your name on a waiting list in the event that someone cancels their indoor visit. We cannot guarantee that you will have more than one weekly indoor visit; but we will do our best to accommodate you.

As you can appreciate, there are strict rules and requirements that homes must put in place in order to accommodate visitors. They include the following:

- 1. PROOF of negative COVID-19 status:** all visitors will have to confirm with staff at the time of the visit that you have tested negative for COVID-19 within the previous two weeks. You must present a copy of your test results at each visit. You will also be asked to sign a screening form. There are assessment centres in our community and you can go to any of the locations and be tested.
- 2. Using personal protective equipment (PPE):** You will be required to comply with our infection, prevention and control protocols including proper use of hand hygiene and proper use of surgical mask. Copernicus Lodge will provide you with a surgical mask for each visit. You will be required to practice safe physical distancing, which means that you will be required to sit **six feet** apart from your loved ones. You will not be able to hug or touch your loved one during your visit. Also, you will not be able to offer your loved one any food, so please do not bring any special treats.
- 3. DURATION of visits:** Maximum of 30 minutes. Visits will be scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. daily. In order for us to accommodate all residents and families, **one** visit per resident per week will be allowed until we receive further directives from the Ministry. Given that your visit would be 30 minutes, you will not



Copernicus Lodge

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be able to access Copernicus Lodge bathroom facilities, so we ask that you plan accordingly prior to your visit.

- 4. LOCATION of visit:** We have dedicated the long-term care multipurpose room on the ground floors for indoor visits. This room is accessed from off of Marion Street. We ask that you arrive for your visit no sooner than five minutes before your scheduled visit. This will allow other families to end their visits without interruption.

We ask that you abide by the above rules; any non-adherence to the above rules will be the basis for discontinuation of visits.

We have started contacting families to schedule their visit date and time.

Essential family members are allowed to visit their loved ones who are palliating or at End of Life.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to set this up. Please note that the wellbeing of your loved one is our top priority and therefore, indoor visits will be based on your family members' ability to safely take part without jeopardizing their health.

For the Ontario government announcement [CLICK HERE](#). To read the specific guidelines, [CLICK HERE](#)

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we look forward to welcoming you to our indoor, outdoor window and virtual visits with your loved one. Also, please be sure to visit our Website for updates at [Copernicus Lodge](#)

Yours truly,

Roxanne Adams
Administrator