

# Memo

**To:** Essential Caregivers and General Visitors  
**From:** Tina O'Malley RN, ICC  
**Date:** December 16, 2021  
**Re:** Rapid Antigen Testing for Visits

---

With the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 which is 4-8 times more contagious than the Delta variant, the Ministry of Health has made many changes to the visitor policy for Long-term Care Homes.

Only visitors that show proof that they are fully vaccinated will be permitted to enter the home.

**Essential Caregivers** must have a Rapid Antigen test, at a minimum, two (2) times per week. Please keep your proof of result cards to show the screener you have had 2 in one week. Once the test has been performed, the essential caregiver may proceed to the resident's room.

**General visitors/support workers** require proof of a negative test prior to entry, taken the day of the visit, or on the previous day. Again, a proof of result card will be provided. The rapid testing takes 15-20 minutes to perform.

Rapid antigen testing for essential caregivers and general visitors will be performed only during specific hours due to the workload involved in testing required of all staff and visitors.

Monday to Friday, except on holidays, the Infection Control Coordinator or designate will be performing these tests.

On holidays and weekends, the Nurse-in-Charge or delegate will be performing the swabs.

## **Hours for testing:**

**7 days a week: 9:45-10:45 AM**

**Monday to Friday: 2:45-3:30 PM**

**Saturday and Sunday: 3:00-4:00 PM**