



Level 90 – Family Presence FAQs

Changes are being made to the public health order related to family presence/visitor restrictions to support greater family presence in long-term care and personal care home facilities.

1. Because of the protective effect of the COVID-19 vaccines, homes may move to Level 90 Family Presence three weeks after 90% of residents have been given the second dose of vaccine.
2. Residents who are unvaccinated, due to medical advice or personal choice, or because there are new residents and have not yet had an opportunity to receive the vaccine, may visit with up to two designated visitors who have had two doses of vaccine at least three weeks beforehand.
3. The decision to lift restrictions will be made on a home -by-home basis. Local Medical Health Officers may decide that local conditions require greater restrictions in a home, possibly due to local transmission rates, or an outbreak in a home.
4. Vaccinations are used to reduce the symptoms of an infection but are not a guarantee. Measures to minimize risk of transmission between residents and visitors, including continuous mask use, facility entrance and temperature screening, hand hygiene and rapid testing should continue.

Q1: When over 90% of the residents in a long term care home are fully vaccinated, can all residents in the home have Level 90 family presence? What about those residents who aren't fully vaccinated?

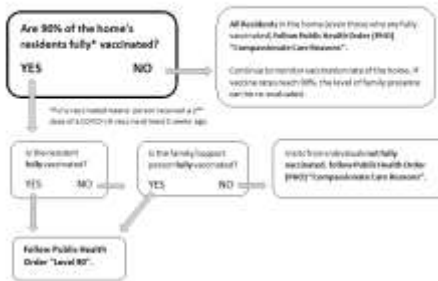
A1: As per the Ministry of Health Public Health Order of April 27, 2021, if a resident who is vaccinated lives in a home that has over 90% of residents fully vaccinated (i.e. 3 weeks past the second dose), they can have level 90 family presence.

If a resident lives in a home with 90% vaccine completion, but they themselves are not vaccinated, they can receive compassionate care visitation. If the unvaccinated residents support person (s) are fully vaccinated then they are able receive level 90 family presence.

If the resident and designated family member/support person are not fully vaccinated, those unvaccinated residents may only have visits for compassionate care reasons.



Family Presence as per Public Health Orders for LTC



Q2: What is meant by “fully vaccinated”?

A2: The term fully vaccinated refers to people who have received their second dose of vaccine and 3 weeks have passed since the last dose.

Q3: Can we ask designated family member/support person for proof of vaccination? How do we collect and store that information?

A3: Yes. If an unvaccinated resident lives in a home that is at level 90 and would like level 90 family presence, then the family/member support person's must show proof of vaccination. This does not apply to residents that are fully vaccinated or following compassionate care.

A note should be made in the health record that the family member/support person's vaccination was received on [date] and that [staff member] saw the vaccination card as proof. Then, the card should be returned to the person without a copy being made. The designated family member/support person does not need to show proof every time after this record has been made.

Q4: My loved one in long term care isn't vaccinated yet, but they would like to be. What do I do?

A4: Contact the care team or manager in your home and resident vaccination will be prioritized.

Q5: As a designated family member/support person, I am not able to be vaccinated yet due to age. Can I get vaccinated earlier to allow me to visit an unvaccinated resident?

A5: We will continue to follow the Government of Saskatchewan schedule for immunizations. Visits can still occur for an unvaccinated resident under compassionate care guidelines.

Q6: Why do essential family members/supports need to be vaccinated to support an unvaccinated resident but health care workers are not required to be vaccinated?



A6: All health care providers are encouraged to be vaccinated and there are ongoing strategies to try to increase vaccinations among health care workers. Some individuals may have medical indications or religious beliefs that prevent vaccination.

Q7: If a resident is not able to be vaccinated for personal, medical, or religious reasons, can they appeal the family presence restrictions?

A7: As per the public health order, unvaccinated residents will follow compassionate care visitation unless their designated visitors have received two doses and three week has passed.

Q8: What is the difference between Level 90 family presence and visits for compassionate care reasons?

A8: In Level 90, there is no limit of designated visitors by the resident, and two can visit at a time. Frequency would be daily or as close to daily as can be accommodated by care teams. Residents can have outdoor visits with up to 4 people at a time and are able to go on outings and not isolate on return as long as they follow the current public health order.

Under compassionate care, two essential caregivers can be designated by the resident, and one caregiver can visit at a time. Frequency would be determined based on meeting the needs of the resident. This could be daily or as close to daily for meeting care needs or weekly to support quality of life needs, as can be accommodated by care teams. Reduced frequency or staggered presence may be needed. Residents can have outdoor visits but are not able to go on outings unless approved by the care team as an essential appointment. More information is available at [Compassionate Care Guidelines](#).

Q9. For homes where 90% of the residents are NOT fully vaccinated, are resident outings allowed?

A9: They would continue to follow compassionate care guidelines for resident outings. Patient day passes, essential appointments, and access to healing centres will be determined in consultation with the care team.

Q10: Are there differences between the levels of family presence for vaccinated and unvaccinated residents if a home is restricted to Level 3 Family Presence?

A10: If a local Medical Health Officer determines that a home should be restricted to Level 3 family presence due to the risk of community transmission, or an outbreak within a facility, all residents would be subject to the same restrictions whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated.

Q11: Who will track the rates of vaccination for each home and how often will they be reviewed?

A11: Each Integrated Health Incident Command Centre is responsible to develop a process for the weekly review of long term care home vaccination rates.

Q12: What happens if our vaccination rate drops below 90%?



A12: When it is determined that a home is able to move to Level 90%, they will stay at that for four weeks. In four weeks, they will be reviewed again. If they have maintained 90% immunization rates, they will stay at Level 90 for another 4 weeks. If they have dropped below 90%, they will move to Compassionate Care family presence and will be reviewed again in one week.

Q13: Is there still going to be a 4-month wait between first and second vaccine doses? Will this be different for designated family members/supports or residents who want the vaccine?

A13: As of March 5, all vaccines administered in Saskatchewan will be a first dose, with second doses administered at an interval of up to four months. This applies to family members/support persons of LTC residents and facilities.

The delayed second dose strategy does not apply to long-term care and personal care **residents and staff**, who will continue to receive their full two-dose series according to the product label.

All Saskatchewan residents who receive their first dose will still be eligible to receive their second dose when the supply is available.

Q14: Have screening requirements changed for visitors and/or residents?

A14: Screening requirements have not changed.

Q15: Do the two family / support people who are present at the same time need to be from the same household?

A15: No but physical distancing would need to be maintained. If the two family / support people are from the same household, they do not need to maintain physical distance.

Q16: Can we visit in common areas of the home (e.g., a solarium) as opposed to a resident room?

A16: Yes as long as they are able to meet all public health measures and the home is able to properly clean and disinfect the area following a visit. Physical distancing between visitors not from the same household must be maintained.

Q17: What are current visitation hours?

A17: Visitation times and spaces used will be determined by each home, based on what they can operationally accommodate based on infrastructure, space, human resources, and will need to exercise reasonableness and work with families and residents.

Q18: Can homes restrict the number of visitors in the home at one time?

A18: Home will determine what can operationally be accommodated within PHO and other health and safety requirements (i.e. maintaining physical distancing).



Q19: How will visitors be recorded for potential contact tracing?

A19: Visitors will sign in, for purposes of tracking if required in future.

Q20: We are a smaller homes and may never be able to reach level 90%, are there any considerations for exceptions?

A20: As per PHO, it is calculated differently for homes that are less than 10 residents:

iii) “threshold” means:

- i In a care home with more than 10 residents, 90% or more of the residents of a care home are vaccinated; or
- ii. In a care home with 10 or fewer residents, all but one resident is vaccinated

Q21: Should temporary care beds be included in the bed count? This # fluctuates daily and they may not qualify for vaccination – i.e. young post op, end of life (not permanent LTC residents)

A21: The vaccine status of all active beds will be included in the percentage.

Q22: Can visitors from outside the province or the country visit residents in homes?

A22: Visitors from outside the province but within the country will follow the same screening processes as Saskatchewan based visitors. Those coming from outside Canada will need to isolate for 14 days unless they have acquired exemption from federal government.

Q23: If a non vaccinated resident in a Level 90 home, has a designated visitor that is fully vaccinated and a second that is not vaccinated, are they both able to visit at the same time?

A23: No, the resident would follow the compassionate care guidelines if they are unvaccinated and wanting to have a visit with an unvaccinated person.

Q24: In an effort to help facilitate the level 90 status in LTC homes are hospitals in each area proactive in providing in-hospital vaccinations in planning stages prior to assessment and transfer to LTC?

A24: Patients or community members that are waiting placement into LTC facilities will be encouraged to begin the vaccination process prior to moving into the home.

Q25: Are family expected to keep 6 feet from resident? Is it a non-touch visit? Can they help the resident eat (if they are masked and shielded and doing proper hand hygiene?)

A25: At this time, distancing should be maintained (as per the PHO) unless the family is participating in direct patient care. Proper hand hygiene before and after touching resident is necessary, as is all required PPE



(for sure a mask, would recommend eye protection within 2 metres of resident, and gowns/gloves would be based on point of care risk assessment/if resident is on any precautions).

Q26: Are residents considered as "single person" when interpreting the guidelines for the Public Health Order?

A26: A resident is classified as a "single" person. Even though residents live in a communal setting, residents are required to physical distance and encouraged to wear a mask when outside of their room. Residents are not considered in a bubble or part of a household. Residents would follow the PHO guidance below for a "person who resides on their own":

A person who resides on their own may choose one other household with which to connect for the duration of this Order. That person may attend the other household's private dwelling provided no more than 4 persons ordinarily reside in that private dwelling

Q27: Are children counted in as one of the number of visitors?

A27: Yes children would be counted as one of the visitors however an infant would not. Children must follow public health measures and PPE.

OUTINGS

Q28: Are there any limits on the outings?

A28: If the resident is vaccinated and from a Level 90 home, they are able to have outings and not isolate on return provided they screen negative. The resident must follow current public health orders when going on outings i.e. wear a mask, family households, physical distances. Hand hygiene must be performed before leaving facility, prior to return to facility and as needed during outing.

Q29: What is the maximum time a resident can leave the home and not have to isolate on return? Do they have to isolate after 48 hrs?

A29: If the resident leaves the facility for any length of time for an outing, the resident would be screened, point of care testing done and may be put on 14 days isolation.

Q30: For unvaccinated residents in a home that is at Level 90, are they able to go on an outing?

A30: If the resident's designated support person(s) is fully vaccinated then they would be permitted to go on an outing with their vaccinated support person(s). The resident must follow the public health order and Infection Prevention and control measures. If the support person is not fully vaccinated, the unvaccinated residents would align with compassionate care.



Q31: Any guidelines for residents returning from a day pass when family did not follow the PHO orders-- not wearing mask and etc. while being out in the community?

A31: As the public health order and infection prevention and control measures were not followed, the returning resident would be screened, point of care testing done and maybe put on 14 days isolation.

Q32: What are the screening requirements for homes for vaccinated residents who are transferring from another facility? Have these guidelines been updated in consideration of immunization?

A32: There are currently no changes in isolation requirements or move in guidelines.

Q33: Can families take residents on outings if the home is not at Level 90?

A33: Patient day passes, essential appointments, and access to healing centres will be determined in consultation with the care team.