

<b>JOHN NOBLE HOME</b> Infection Control Manual	<b>DIVISION:</b> Infection Control  <b>CATEGORY:</b> Infectious Diseases	<b>POLICY NO:</b> 4-A-65
<b>ISSUED BY:</b> Infection Control Committee	<b>SUBJECT:</b> <b>COVID Protocol-  Staff, Students, Visitors,  Volunteers, and  Contractors</b>	<b>PAGE NO:</b> 1 of 4

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the John Noble Home to follow the recommendations of the Public Health Unit, the Ministry of Long-Term Care and failing direction from these resources endeavor to act in a manner that respects prevailing Best Practices within the industry.

**PURPOSE:** To prevent the spread of infection specifically COVID and all associated variants and to respect the residents’ rights set out in the Bill of Rights for Residents. Specifically: The resident has the right to be cared for in a safe and clean environment.

**Principles that Form the Basis of this Policy:**

- We care for a vulnerable population that suffers negative outcomes when they are impacted by an infectious disease
- We have a responsibility to provide a safe and clean environment for our resident’s Home
- We have a responsibility to ensure that adequate staff is available to provide the care needed to the residents of our Home
- We have to balance the risk of a negative outcome, up to and including death, with restrictions that impact the psychosocial well-being of our residents, staff, volunteers and contractors.
- The Home supports each person’s right to choose their accepted risk level but recognizes that living in a congregate setting may increase the risk to others in their attempt to exercise this right. The Home has a mandate to protect each resident from potential harm as laid out in the legislation.

**PROCEDURE:**

Related to COVID

1. The John Noble Home will require all staff, volunteers, caregivers, and contracted services to be vaccinated. The Home considers a person vaccinated who has received 2 doses plus a booster vaccine, with the exception of persons 5-11 that are only required to have 2 doses of the vaccine and person under 5 who are not required to be vaccinated. In the future these requirements may change as recommendations evolve. All outdoor visits are exempt from this requirement.

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2. Any person entering the Home will be screened by the Home to ensure they do not have any symptoms or contact concerns related to exposures to COVID. A tool approved by the Ministry of Long-Term Care/Public Health, following the most up to date recommendations/ directives/prevaling practice, will be used. Visitors will follow the directions of the Home for use of appropriate PPE. Emergency personnel and Ministry inspectors are exempt from this requirement.
3. Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) will be completed by all individuals entering the Home (except Inspectors and emergency personnel) in keeping with a schedule set by the Home based on Best Practices and recommendations from the above entities and community transfer rates.
4. The John Noble Home recognizes the value of wearing a medical grade mask for source protection for our staff, visitors, contractors and volunteers and residents, where tolerated. The lack of Influenza and other viral outbreaks has been noted during the Pandemic as evidence of the effectiveness of PPE. The Home will continue to require the use of a medical mask indefinitely within the Home. Face shields will be worn when deemed beneficial by the Home based on a Point of Risk Assessment.
5. For residents in isolation, individuals entering their room, where physical distancing of 2m or greater can not be maintained, will be required to wear a medical or N95 mask, as indicated by the nature of the virus and the care taking place, and a shield if the chance of droplet or airborne spread is a risk. Contact/Droplet precautions will continue to be used for anyone that has been placed in isolation related to the symptoms they are experiencing. This will include the use of gown, gloves, mask (medical or N95 based on risk assessment).
6. The Home recognizes that as treatment modalities change and become newly available, we will revisit the specifics of this policy to make appropriate adjustments to the policy as indicated by the treatment available.
7. Visitors will follow the directions of the Home for use of appropriate PPE.
8. Any staff, visitor, or volunteer who develops symptoms while in the Home, must report immediately to their manager or Registered Nurse.
9. Recreational programs will be provided to our residents and may exceed 10 individuals. The Home continues to recognize the value of resident home area-based programs (RHA). Large group programs where social crowding may take place are still strongly discouraged.

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10. Residents can name caregivers (4 at this time) and may receive support from them as they wish. General visitors are also permitted in the Home. During an outbreak only one caregiver/visitor can be present at a time and general visitors are not permitted. Outdoor visits are available and residents can leave the Home for leave of absences as they wish except in cases of isolation or high-risk contacts.

**RESOURCES:**

[Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines: Recommended Doses \(gov.on.ca\)](#)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8377789/>

[CDC COVID Data Tracker: Vaccine Effectiveness and Breakthrough Surveillance](#)

[The efficacy and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines in reducing infection, severity, hospitalization, and mortality: a systematic review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Feffectiveness.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Feffectiveness.html)

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35045566/>

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