

MANUAL:	Infection Control	Policy No.:	4-A-65
SECTION:	Outbreak Information		
SUBJECT:	Covid-19 Protocol- Staff, Students, Volunteers, Visitors, Contracted Nursing Agencies, and Contractors		

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.

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PROCEDURE:

Related to COVID

1. John Noble Home highly recommends Covid-19 vaccinations of Staff, Students, Volunteers, Visitors, Contracted Nursing Agencies, and Contractors, proof of vaccination is no longer required as of June 28, 2023.
2. Any person entering the Home will complete passive screening to ensure they do not have any symptoms or contact concerns related to exposures to COVID-19. 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. Emergency personnel and Ministry inspectors are exempt from this requirement.
3. Anyone entering the Home will follow the directions of the Home for use of appropriate PPE. The lack of Influenza and other viral outbreaks has been noted during the Pandemic as evidence of the effectiveness of PPE. The John Noble Home recognizes the value of wearing a medical grade mask for source protection for anyone having contact with Residents. Universal masking may be implemented at any time in collaboration with MOH and/or PH. Additional precautions will be implemented based on a Point of Care Risk Assessment. The Home is mask friendly, masks are available for those who choose to wear them.

Medical exemptions for universal masking will be addressed on an individual basis.

4. For Residents in isolation, individuals entering their room, where physical distancing of 2m or greater can not be maintained will follow Contact/Droplet precautions. This will include the use of gown, gloves, mask (medical or N95 based on a point of care risk assessment). Gloves and gowns are not to be worn outside of rooms at any time
5. 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.

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6. Any person who has entered the home and develops symptoms while in the Home, must report immediately to their manager or Registered Nurse.

*** This policy has replaced 2-A-140 COVID Immunization**

Policy, Covid Protocol Visitors & Contractors 4-A-90

RESOURCES:

- Ministry of Health Guide to Influenza Pandemic Preparedness and Response in Long Term Care Homes
- Resolved Cases: [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability - Infectious Disease Protocol - Appendix 1: Case Definitions and Disease-Specific Information - Disease: Diseases caused by a novel coronavirus, including Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(gov.on.ca\)](#)
- For respiratory pathogens refer to: [Recommendations for the Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes](#)

DATE APPROVED:	April 2022
DATE REVIEWED:	December 2023
DATE REVISED:	December 2023

