

Grey Bruce Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub

Topic: Holiday Gathering and Enhanced IPAC Measures

Date: December 24th, 2021

We continue to see an increase in community cases in Grey Bruce and encourage homes to be extra vigilant in your screening and IPAC processes.

Enhanced measures include:

Surveillance Testing

- Please follow the recommendations of your Ministry and/or governing body for screening of staff, support workers, students, volunteers and visitors

Screening

- Please actively screen daily for staff, students, volunteers, visitors and residents. Any person with symptoms are required to be tested by PCR. Visitors with positive screening are not allowed to enter the facility and required to get tested by PCR.

Visitor Information

- Unvaccinated individuals are NOT permitted entry (exception for palliative, medically exempt), effective December 14, 2021
- Outdoor visits are still permitted for unvaccinated individuals (where feasible)
- Outdoor Visits - Up to 4 visitors / caregivers total per resident at a time
- Indoor visits – up to 2 visitors / caregivers per resident at a time
- Infants under 1 year of age are not considered visitors, not testing or immunization required.

Cohorting

- Cohort residents for high risk activities (singing, dancing etc.) and dining
- Discourage large group social activities
- Reinforce staff cohorting, including during breaks, and encourage virtual staff meetings where possible.

Day Absences

- Day absences for social purposes permitted for fully vaccinated only.

Created: 2021-12-16

Modified: 2021-12-24

- Actively screen upon return; if known exposure to a case, PCR test on day 1 and day 7 and isolate until a negative results is confirmed from day 7.

Overnight Absences

- Overnight absences are suspended
- Residents who wish to leave the home for the holidays or due to COVID-19 temporarily discharged and need to follow the re-admission protocol in order to return at a later date

Admissions and Transfers

- Enhanced symptom screening for all admissions/transfers and twice daily symptom screening for 10 days following the admission/transfer
- For admissions/transfers from another healthcare facility that is not in outbreak:
 - Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated and no known exposure to a case - PCR test prior to admission or on arrival, isolate until a negative test result is received
- For admissions from the community, regardless of vaccination status:
 - PCR test prior to admission or on arrival and at day 7 and isolate on droplet/contact precautions until negative test result from day 7 confirmed

IPAC Measures

- Directing homes to ensure audits are happening every two weeks and weekly if in outbreak
 - [PHO COVID-19 IPAC for Long Term Care and Retirement Homes Checklist, November 2021](#)
- Remind homes of:
 - PHO and OCMOH IPAC best practices
 - [Infrastructure Ontario 10-point plan on ventilation](#)
 - [PHO guidance on ventilation](#)
 - [PHO Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#)

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to your GBHU infectious disease liaison 519-376-9420 ext. 6 or the GBHU IPAC Hub ipachub@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

IPAC Hub Team
Grey Bruce Public Health

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