



JULY 20, 2020

---

**TO:** FAMILY MEMBERS, GUARDIANS AND ADVOCATES

**FROM:** KATHERINE LOVEYS

**SUBJECT:** FAMILY VISITS

**CC:** ALL PCL EMPLOYEES

---

Thank you for your patience and support as we introduced family visits outdoors at our homes. We shared your concerns with our Ministry counterparts regarding the required negative COVID-19 testing of family members prior to visits occurring. Late last week, July 16, the Ministry responded to agencies with updated guidance on family visits. This new guidance document no longer requires COVID-19 testing of family members and they have also introduced indoor visits at the group home as of July 22, 2020. We will continue to advocate for outdoor visits to minimize contact as some of our homes are small and not conducive to separate family visits from the rest of the home. We also have to consider the vulnerability and the health risk assessments of all the people in the home before approving indoor visits. Active screening will be required as well as the use of masks and maintaining physical distancing requirements. They are also allowing overnight absences if it is an **essential** visit. An essential overnight visit *“is one considered necessary to maintain the health, wellness and safety, or any applicable legal rights, of a resident.”* If this visit is deemed essential, with the consent of the agency and the family, once the person returns to the group home they will have to be isolated for a period of 14 days and have to follow all the required protocols. Please consider this carefully for your loved one. Anytime someone goes into the community (including home visits), there is increased risk, not just for your family member and yourselves, but for our staff and the others we support in the home.

The Program Supervisors of the home will be in touch with you regarding the updated guidance and procedures regarding indoor visits. We appreciate your patience as we update our policies and procedures and protocols regarding this updated guidance document.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Katherine Loveys  
Executive Director

