

COVID-19 Protocols for Resident Absences

Note: The province is currently under an emergency brake. The protocols below reflect changes as of June 7, 2021 and must be followed by all residents who leave for absences, as applicable.

There are four types of absences:

1. **Medical absences** are absences to seek medical and/or health care.
 2. **Compassionate/palliative absences** are absences that include, but are not limited to, absences for the purposes of visiting a dying loved one.
 3. **Short term (day) absences** split into:
 - A. **Essential outings** – absences for reasons of groceries, pharmacies, and outdoor physical activity; and
 - B. **Social outings** - absences other than for medical, compassionate/palliative, or essential outings that do not include an overnight stay outside of the home.
 4. **Temporary (overnight) absences** refer to absences that involve two or more days and one or more nights away from the home for non-medical purposes.
- For all types of absences, if a resident is unable to source a medical mask, one will be provided free of charge by the residence.
 - Residents will be reminded to practice public health measures, such as physical distancing (2 meters separation) and hand hygiene, while they are away from the residence.
 - Resident should advise staff of the leave in advance, where they are going, who they will be seeing, how long they will be out, etc.]
 - The residence will not restrict or deny outings for medical, compassionate/palliative or Essential Outings solely due to a residents' immunization status.
 - Absences for medical or compassionate/palliative reasons are the only absences permitted when the resident wishing to take the absence is in isolation on Droplet and Contact Precautions (due to symptoms, exposure, and/or diagnosis of COVID-19) or when the home is in outbreak.
 - Residents are permitted to go on Essential Outings, including walks either on or off the premises, at all times except when that resident is self-isolating and on Droplet and Contact Precautions, or as directed by the local PHU.

- Residents will not be permitted to start Short term (day) absences and Temporary (overnight) absences if the resident is in an area of the home that is in outbreak, or when advised by public health.
- Based on a resident’s immunization status and absence type, the following will apply:

		Fully Immunized Resident ¹	Partially Immunized or Unimmunized Resident
Short term (day) absence	Essential outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted unless the resident is self-isolating • Residents must follow public health measures during the absence • Active screening on return • Testing or self-isolation not required 	
	Social outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted unless resident is self-isolating • Residents must follow public health measures during the absence • Active screening on return • Testing or self-isolation not required 	
Temporary (overnight) absence		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted once the province moves to <u>Step 1</u> of the provincial Three-Step Roadmap unless the resident is self-isolating • Residents must follow public health measures during the absence • Unless exempt², a lab-based PCR test is required at time of readmission. The resident must be placed in isolation on Droplet and Contact Precautions if their test result is pending. If their test result is negative, isolation on Droplet and Contact Precautions can be discontinued. If the test is positive, isolation and Droplet and Contact precautions must be continued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted once the province moves to <u>Step 1</u> of the provincial Three-Step Roadmap unless the resident is self-isolating • Residents must follow public health measures during the absence • Unless exempt², a lab-based PCR test is required at time of re-admission, and the resident must be placed in isolation on Droplet and Contact Precautions for a minimum of 10 days. A second negative lab-based PCR test result collected on day 8 is required to discontinue isolation on Droplet and Contact precautions on day 10; otherwise isolation must be maintained until day 14.

¹ **“Fully immunized”** means a person has received the total number of required doses of a vaccine approved by Health Canada and it has been at least 14 days since they received their final dose.



² ***Exception for recently recovered residents:*** Residents who are within 90 days (from the date the test was taken) from a prior lab-confirmed COVID-19 infection and have recently recovered are not required to be tested or placed in isolation on Droplet and Contact precautions upon return from an absence.

- All residents on an absence, regardless of the type or duration of the absence, will be actively screened upon their return to the home.

Note: Residents who are self-isolating under Contact and Droplet Precautions may only receive Essential Visitors (e.g., residents may not receive General Visitors or Personal Care Service Providers).