

Visitation and Virtual Visits

At Edmonton Chinatown Care Centre (ECCC), we have the privilege of caring for a group of persons who have extended families within the greater community. As we age through our lifetimes, for a large number of us, being able to connect with our loved ones is the primary goal. Unfortunately, over the past two plus years COVID-19 has directed our lives and has, in no small part, impeded are ability to live freely.

At ECCC, as a long-term care facility, we are a microcosm of the extended community, we have had to adapt visitation guidelines (repeatedly) in accordance with medical of health directives, community transmission, and active outbreaks on site. It is never our intent to separate residents from their families as we are very aware of the importance of this relationship in helping to maintain a person's health and well-being. But, in long-term care we have had to continuously adapt due to the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19 and the endless variants of concern that it has delivered. At this junction, it is safe to say that as a community we will need to plan long-term as this disease continues to mutate.

Across Canada, the older adult population, 70 years and above account for the highest number of deaths associated with COVID-19. As of May 17, 2022, 32, 920 Canadian 70+ years have died due to COVID-19, which accounts for 81.7% of all deaths. The ability to mitigate risk of COVID-19 transmission is dependent upon all of us working collaboratively and adhering to infection, prevention and control protocols (IPC). Our outbreak ended April 30, 2022, therefore we have reviewed the PPE protocol for ECCC post outbreak. In the event a site is not in an outbreak the IPC protocol requires all staff and visitors to continuously wear a face mask, but a face shield is not normally required. *However, please note an increase in community transmission of COVID-19 will guide whether additional PPE is required.*

Visitation IPC & PPE guidelines:

1. All **visitors are required to wear a face mask at ALL times while on site.** *Do not remove your face mask.*
 - In LTC, it is a fact-when you visit your family member, you are visiting all residents on the unit because LTC residents live communally.
 - If a visitor decides to remove their face mask, and inadvertently passes the virus onto their family member, that family member shares a table with other residents in the dining room. From there, transmission expands (very quickly) to other residents.
2. If a visitor chooses, they may wear a face shield, but are not obligated to. Face shields for all visitors will be at the security.
3. **All visitors 5 years and older, must have completed a primary series of vaccine and must be able to show QR code as proof of vaccination.**
4. **All visitors under 5, do not need to show proof of vaccination, and must be accompanied by adults at all times when on site.**

5. All visitation must take place in the resident's room, if the balconies (2nd & 3rd floors) are available-families are welcome to use during their visit.
6. **If you are ill, please do not come to visit at site.**

Booking Rooms

If you would like to book a room for an event, please connect with the Clinical Leads directly. But please note there is only one room available to book. A maximum number of 10 people, including the resident can be in the space. All visitors are expected to clean the space after use, and remove all garbage.

- 3rd flr Clinical Lead-780-429-0888 X 290
- 2nd flr Clinical Lead-780-429-0888 X 272

Virtual Visits

At ECCC, the residents value recreation activities and events that allow them opportunities to socialize at the site. In an outbreak, we want to make sure residents have the ability to connect with families and as such we organize virtual visits. We are able to do this because in an outbreak, on site recreation activities are very limited. At this time, we are not in an outbreak and visitation is now open. Therefore, ***as of May 30, 2022 virtual visits will no longer be available.*** If you have scheduled virtual visits after this date, they will be removed from the system.

Moving forward, virtual visits can be arranged, but in extenuating circumstances only. Please connect with the Clinical Leads if you have further questions.

COVID-19 2nd Dose Booster (Fourth Dose)

A primary series of COVID-19 vaccination, unless an individual is immunocompromised is defined as two doses. At Edmonton Chinatown Care Centre (ECCC) all residents have completed their primary series of COVID vaccination.

The current census at ECCC is 80.

Of this population:

- 72 have received 3 doses of COVID vaccine
- 7 have received 2 doses of COVID vaccine
- 1 has received 4 doses of COVID vaccine (immunocompromised)

April 12, 2022, Alberta Health announced eligibility for fourth dose COVID vaccination among certain groups, which includes persons who live in long-term care facilities. At the time of this announcement we were in an active COVID-19 outbreak.

Vaccination Clinics

No Recent COVID Infection

At ECCC, 39 residents did not become positive for COVID-19 and are now eligible to receive a 4th dose. Permitting, it has been 5 months since completing the primary series.

Recent COVID infection

At ECCC, 41 residents became positive for COVID-19. Both Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provide guidance for 2nd dose booster (4th dose) among populations post COVID infection. The current recommendations for the administration of COVID boosters following infection is three months. The rationale for this is, studies have shown, longer intervals between doses have a better immune response and slightly better vaccine effectiveness than shorter intervals. One explanation given for this is the longer interval allows time for waning protection-antibodies to decrease- thus avoiding immune interference when the next dose is administered.

COVID Vaccination Clinic (4th Dose)

We are planning for a 4th-dose COVID vaccine clinic in early July, as this time frame will allow for all eligible persons at ECCC, regardless of recent infection, to receive a 4th dose. If they so choose.

The week of June 13, 2022 we will prepare the process of acquiring consents for vaccine administration. For those residents who are their own decision maker, consent is given verbally at the time of administration.

Options

1. For those residents without recent COVID infection, as long as it is five months past completion of the primary series, they are eligible. If you are the designated agent, and if you prefer your family member to receive the vaccine sooner than the July clinic, please reach out to me directly at ehart@edmccc.net.
2. Regarding those who have had recent COVID infection. AHS has provided the option for all residents, regardless of recent infection, to consent for fourth dose, earlier than the recommended 3 months post infection. If you are the designated agent, and it is your decision to consent to an earlier dose, please reach out to me directly at ehart@edmccc.net.

References

- Alberta Health. (2022). *COVID-19 vaccines and records: Fourth dose for seniors-If you recently had COVID-19*. Retrieved from Alberta.Ca: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx#third>
- GOC. (2022, May). *COVID-19 daily epidemiology update*. Retrieved from Government of Canada: <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html#a5>
- GOC. (2022). *COVID-19 vaccine: Canadian immunization guide*. Retrieved from Government of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#t1>
- NACI. (2022). *Immunization*. Retrieved from National Advisory Committee on Immunization: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/rapid-response-guidance-covid-19-vaccination-timing-individuals-previously-infected-sars-cov-2.html>