

PLEASE READ... BETHANY MANOR COVID-19 UPDATE FOR BETHANY INDEPENDENT LIVING RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES – July 9, 2020

You are receiving this communication because you are an independent living resident of Bethany, or you have provided, and/or a Bethany independent living resident(s) has provided your email address as they have identified you as their family/friend contact person.

You may be aware of a recent announcement that visitor restrictions in Personal Care Homes are changing. Family contact is vital to the emotional wellbeing and quality of life of our residents and we are pleased to advise that effective immediately we are lifting our “essential visitors only” rule for inside visits with external people (non-residents), and are permitting safe and cautious visitation inside the Bethany buildings effective immediately (please allow us additional time to change signage at entrances to reflect this).

The Bethany Villa Personal Care Home indoor visit guidelines are strictly in line with Ministry of Health requirements. The Bethany Place Assisted Living indoor visit guidelines are closely in line with those Personal Care requirements, because as much as possible, we are to treat Assisted Living the same as Personal Care. Separate communications of the specific guidelines for Personal Care and Assisted Living have been provided to the families and/or residents of those divisions. In keeping with those same visiting principles that are intended to keep our residents and community as safe and as healthy as possible, guidelines for indoor visits for non-residents with independent living residents are also similar.

Indoor visits with non-residents cannot occur within Bethany common spaces (e.g. lobbies, hallways, dining room, walkway, games rooms and all other common rooms); indoor visits with non-residents must take place inside the resident’s suite only.

Non-resident visitors should be limited to up to two family members/friends/support persons at one time. These visitors should be the same people consistently; you should not change it up/add other visitors going forward. Non-resident visitors should not be those who attend larger gatherings elsewhere.

We require that any non-resident visitor must self-screen prior to entry into the buildings and also they are strongly advised to wear a mask. If the non-resident visitor is entering the Bethany Place building they are required to wear a mask, as this building also houses Assisted Living. Due to the costs of masks, ongoing supply matters, and the priority to ensure provision of PPE to our staff, Bethany is not able to provide masks to visitors.

As Bethany personnel are not required to screen independent living visitors, visitation appointments do not have to be booked/arranged with Bethany.

All non-resident visitors must practice social/physical distancing and proper hand hygiene.

Visitors cannot arrive at the property if feeling unwell and/or showing any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19/similar to COVID-19 symptoms. Visitors from provinces east of Manitoba or from out of the country are not permitted, unless the visitor stays elsewhere, such as in a local hotel, self-monitoring and isolating for a minimum of 14-days before coming onsite.

Immediately after entering, visitors must use the nearest hand sanitizer dispenser (located near the elevators). Visitors are not permitted to use any 'public' washroom within Bethany. If required, the visitor must only use the washroom in the suite of the resident that they are visiting.

The visitor must also limit their movement in the facility. This means that the visitor must proceed directly to the resident's suite and when the visit is over must leave directly out of the building.

Please note that these new guidelines for non-resident visits may only be temporary; pending pandemic related concerns, visiting rules may be changed at any time, including becoming stricter again. When changes occur we will update you accordingly.

Please also note that outside visits may be held on Bethany grounds if you prefer. Outside visits are known to be 'safer' when considering potential transmission of COVID-19. Outside visits should still limit the number of households present and maintain social/physical distancing, etc. Please do not hold an outside visit within 6 feet of a resident's ground floor balcony and keep outside visits to 10 people or less. Outside visits cannot be held within our inner Courtyard; all areas of the Courtyard remain restricted to Bethany residents and staff only.

As previously advised, independent living residents are permitted to have one or two other Bethany residents/Bethany households in their suites for socializing. These one or two Bethany residents/Bethany households must remain the same grouping and must not be exhibiting any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19/similar to COVID-19 symptoms. Please realize that if you are developing a household group with external family then you may not have another internal household group with Bethany residents. We are not yet re-opening our common areas for visiting/gatherings.

We also continue to recommend that family do not take a resident out of the facility via vehicle for the purpose of a social visit elsewhere, as social/physical distancing cannot be maintained in a vehicle. However, if the resident needs to go to an appointment related to their health and they are no longer driving on their own, it is preferred that family do take the resident because we feel that is safer than the resident using public transportation. As always, we recommend masks are worn if driving a resident to an appointment.

As always, we thank you for your understanding and support during these continuing challenging days. We will continue to provide updates when more details or other plans become available. We ask that you please share this information with your family and friends.

In addition to these emailed communications we also place updates on the Home page of our website at: www.bethany55plusliving.ca.

Bethany Manor/Saskatoon Mennonite Care Services Inc.