

**Media Release****March 15th, 2020****Long Term Care, Retirement Homes, Hospice and Supportive Housing across Chatham-Kent required to enact new visitation requirements**

With the safety and wellbeing of the communities' most vulnerable residents being top priority, The Ministry of Health has issued that long term care and retirement homes, hospices and supporting housing only allow essential visitors into their facilities until further notice.

At this time, an essential visitor is being defined as someone who is visiting a resident that is receiving end of life, or palliative, care. Essential visitors will be actively screened before entry to the facility is permitted.

Non-essential visitors who are wanting to keep in touch with loved ones that reside within long term care and retirement settings are asked to do so by phone or other technologies, as available.

At the request of the Ministry, CK Public Health has supplied these facilities in Chatham-Kent with the screening tools and appropriate signage to support them in keeping their settings safe and secure during this time.

Residents are reminded that this is an evolving situation and information is changing rapidly. CK Public Health is dedicated to providing information to our partners as we receive it. For more information regarding the abovementioned, or any other matters regarding COVID-19, residents are asked to visit [www.ckpublichealth.com/covid19](http://www.ckpublichealth.com/covid19) . If unable to find the information they are looking for, please call CK Public Health at on the COVID-19 intake line, 519-355-1071 ext. 1900 or email [covid19@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:covid19@chatham-kent.ca)

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