

Resident Absences

1. Are residents permitted to leave the retirement home?

Last Updated: October 6, 2020

Retirement home residents who wish to go outside of the home (e.g., absences with friends or family, shopping, medical appointments, etc.) are permitted to do so if the following requirements are met:

- The retirement home must NOT be currently in an outbreak.
 - In the event that a home allows absences but enters into an outbreak, there should be a hold on starting new absences until the home is no longer in outbreak. Short absences for essentials (e.g. groceries, medical appointments, filling prescriptions) may be continued. Homes must establish compliance with all CMOH Directives for homes in outbreak and follow directions from the local PHU.
- Upon return to the home, residents must be actively screened and monitored for symptoms but are not required to be tested or self-isolate.
- Residents must wear a face covering/mask at all times when outside of the home (if tolerated) and be reminded about the importance of public health measures including physical distancing. The resident is responsible for supplying a face covering/mask while they are on absences. The home may, at its discretion, opt to supply face coverings/masks for absences.
- Education on all required protocols for short absences, such as IPAC and PPE, will be provided by the home.

Further restrictions related to resident absences will be imposed on homes in communities identified under Alert or High Alert status. Retirement home residents may be permitted to leave the home for essentials (e.g., groceries, medical appointments, filling prescriptions), with the exception of also being permitted to leave for single-night emergency room visits. They must also meet the screening, face covering/masking, physical distancing and education requirements outlined above.

2. Can residents leave the building for overnight absences?

Last Updated: October 6, 2020

A resident may leave for an absence that include at least one overnight stay if the home meets the following requirements:

- The retirement home must NOT be currently in an outbreak.
 - In the event that a home allows absences but enters into an outbreak, there should be a hold on starting new absences until the home is no longer in outbreak. Homes must establish compliance with all CMOH Directives for homes in outbreak and follow directions from the local PHU.
- The home is in a community that has NOT been identified under Alert or High Alert status.
- Residents must wear a face covering/mask at all times when outside of the home (if tolerated) and be reminded about the importance of public health measures including