



The Salvation Army Buchanan Lodge

Communication Update July 9th, 2020

Dear Family and Friends

Today's update is focused on the recent announcement concerning Social Visits.

Current Practice

We have been successfully providing approximately 90 visits per week in the form of open window, courtyard gates, zoom/WhatsApp, and combinations of same with no restriction on the number of family or friends being able to participate per visit. With four courtyards and numerous accessible windows, the building design enables us to accommodate multiple visits simultaneously managed by a single staff person.

Recently Announced Social Visiting Policy

The newly announced policy is designed to enable social visits to take place inside the courtyards and designated (lobby) areas inside the building – not in resident rooms. Residents are only allowed a single “designated” visitor. Families will have to decide who the designated visitor will be. Only the designated visitor will be able to visit.

The designated visitor will not be able to have any physical contact with their loved ones – no hand holding, no hugs, no change from current no contact policy. Visitor and residents will have to maintain a minimum 2-meter distance separation. To ensure that distances and other precautions are maintained a staff member is required to monitor each visit.

It was also announced that funding of up to 3-FTE's will be provided to LTC Homes for the purposes of facilitating the new policy. Details have not yet been provided.

What this means

Buchanan does not have the resources to fully implement the new policy without significant reduction or elimination of the current visits practice.

Where we go from here

Until we receive details of the announced funding, we will continue with our current practice. However, we will also be flexible and will accommodate inside visits whenever possible.

In the coming week, we expect to receive more information about funding, for additional staff, from the health authority.

In the meantime, we continue to be Covid-19 free and will update you next week with more information.

Blessings,
Blake Armstrong
Executive Director