The government has decided that a limited number of people, designated by the resident (or if they are incapable, their Power of Attorney or substitute decision maker), may be allowed into the long-term care homes as Essential Caregivers (Caregivers).

These Caregivers, who will not be permitted into the Home until they have received in-person education, are essential as they provide direct care for Dearness Home residents. Such care may be support with eating, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity, and/or assistance in decision making.

**Caregivers must be at least 18 years of age.** They may be a family member, privately hired, a paid companion or a translator.

A maximum of two Caregivers may be designated per resident. **It is important to note that at Dearness Home, due to safety issues, only one Caregiver per resident should be in the Home at one time.**

COVID-19 can be fatal for those who live in long-term care - experience elsewhere shows as many as 50% of those infected die. Keeping COVID-19 out of Dearness Home is extremely important and as such, Caregivers will be required to respect and practice the infection control measures in place to keep our residents and staff safe. Caregivers will receive one in-person education on infection control practices, including how to safely put personal protective equipment on and take it off before entering the Home.

If you are the POA or SDM for care, please speak with your loved one in the Home and your family to decide if you want to designate Caregivers. The designated Caregiver(s) will then complete and return the registration form attached. This form is also available at [London.ca](http://London.ca) Please note that only the resident or POA/SDM for care can designate a Caregiver.

**General Expectations of Essential Caregivers**

**The Caregiver must:**

- Be tested and receive a negative COVID-19 test result within 7 days of each visit;
- Only access the Home during COVID-19 visiting hours (9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. on weekends);
- Avoid coming or leaving between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to allow staff shift change to occur smoothly;
- Ensure only one Caregiver per resident is in the Home at a time and
- Ensure there is no package exchanges or food/drink sharing during any visit.

**Prior to/upon entering and leaving the home:**

- Self-screen at home before coming and not visiting Dearness if there are signs or symptoms of COVID-19;
- Participate in active screening when entering and leaving the building for each visit, including answering questions, passing temperature checks and attesting they have had a negative test result for COVID-19 within the last 7 days and subsequently have not positive
at testing that, in the last 14 days, they have not visited another resident who is self-isolating or symptomatic, and have not visited another Home that is in an outbreak.

Infection Prevention and Control Measures –

The Caregiver must:
Follow all the guidelines provided in the in-person education, also included in the educational handout, including:

- Practicing good hand hygiene, prior to entering and upon exiting the home;
- Wearing the provided surgical mask and shield appropriately at all times while in the home;
- Using alcohol-based hand rubs as the preferred method of cleansing unless hands are visibly soiled, when soap & water would be preferred;
- Where the resident is in isolation, wearing the designated droplet/contact personal protective equipment (surgical mask, eye protection, gloves, and gown) and following protocol to properly put on PPE and remove PPE and
- Asking staff for assistance (using the call bell) if unsure how to follow these steps.

Essential Caregiver Expectations while in the Home –

The Caregiver must:

- Proceed directly to the resident’s room. If the resident is in the common areas, the Caregiver will take them to the room not stopping to talk to others or traveling to other areas of the home to visit others;
- Stay within the resident’s room and only use the call bell if anything is needed outside of the room;
- Remain in the resident’s room if the Caregiver is staying through a mealtime. The resident’s meals will be served in their room;
- At the end of the Caregiver session, provide an update to staff on regarding the care and resident well-being of the resident and
- Acknowledge that the failure to follow expectations is a serious matter that may result in a discontinuation of Caregiver access.

Outbreak Precautions or Failure of Febrile Screening

- In the event a Home enters into a COVID-19 outbreak, continuation of visits will be discussed with the Caregiver to review risks of continued visits.
- In the event a resident is isolated due to failed febrile screening, return from hospital, etc., the Caregiver will be notified that they will be required to wear the appropriate PPE and will discuss whether they wish to continue the scheduled visits.