

CanAge's PADDLES Model

Best principles for safely visiting loved ones in Long-Term Care

The **PADDLES model** provides an additional toolkit for safe visits with loved ones. It is important to keep these principles in mind in order to follow proper infection control when enjoying the activities outlined in the CANOE model.

P

Personal Protective Equipment

Ensure available equipment for all parties (visitors, staff, residents, volunteers, etc.) such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

Monitor the use of PPE, and remind individuals if they are not following guidelines, they will not be able to visit.

L

Leveraging All Resources

Use all resources and materials available to long-term care residents to ensure for the safest visits possible to minimize infection. Maintain consistent guidelines throughout the site for best safety practices. This can include education about safe visiting, signage, supplying materials, personal protective equipment, and hand washing stations.

A

Awareness of Symptoms

Remind scheduled visitors of COVID-19 symptoms. If visitors, staff, or residents exhibit any of the symptoms, the visit will be cancelled. Screening may be required upon visiting a residence.

E

Environmental Cleaning

Ensure that all surfaces are continuously and thoroughly disinfected. Additionally, all staff, residents, and visitors must maintain proper hygiene and have access to materials within the residence that will allow for safe practices to be carried out. For example, before the visit begins, residents and visitors are asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. In addition, tables and chairs will also be properly disinfected.

D

Distancing

The best place to visit is outside; however, if visiting outdoors isn't possible, visitors, residents, and staff are strongly encouraged to physically distance inside while wearing proper PPE to ensure infection control.

S

Safe Food Handling

Encourage visitors to refrain from bringing in food to share with residents. While visiting to celebrate special events, visitors can communicate with staff to find alternative solutions for the resident to enjoy.

Proper hand hygiene is mandatory, and disposable dishware, when needed, will be provided.

D

Duty to Report and Communicate

Staff members are reminded to regularly communicate within the residence and with families to report a possible outbreak and withhold visiting until the outbreak has been resolved. Communication with essential visitors is crucial to ensure safety precautions are being followed.

For more resources, visit canage.ca/tools