

# Community Connections

## Benefits of Community Connections



Social connection is essential to quality of life, and LTC residents can thrive when their needs for social connection are met. Building and maintaining social connection within LTC homes, and with the communities connected to the LTC home—such as volunteers and other caring partners—need to be a key consideration during COVID-19 and beyond.



## Supporting Community Connections



- Contact community partners to invite their ideas for creative support during periods of outbreak.
- Use telephone, video calling, window visits, drive-by visits, e-cards or email/mail to connect residents to their communities.
- Email messages and photos can be printed and delivered to the resident and read aloud by LTC staff if needed.
- Involve community organizations providing virtual programming via video or telephone.
- Facilitate connections between residents across the province through the Ontario Association of Residents' Councils Resident Forum.
- Encourage community partners to follow infection prevention and control protocols if they are donating food or items to residents or staff in the LTC home.

## Creative Community Connections



- Cards and care packages
- Window visits from local artists and musicians
- Online spiritual and religious services
- Parades from local organizations
- Outdoor events and performances
- Virtual art gallery and museum tours