

# COVID-19: Guidance for Designated Family/Supports during Outbreak and High Community Transmission Hospitals

## Thinking of supporting or visiting a patient in a hospital?

Effective Nov. 25, one (1) designated family/support person is permitted under specific circumstances for patients admitted into the hospital. Speak with the care team at the site to determine exceptions.

*Maternity and Postpartum:* one (1) designated family/support person is permitted. A doula or a surrogate parent, in addition to the designated family/support person, will be allowed when this is part of a birth plan and the facility has the ability to support this safely.

*Pediatrics and NICU:* up to two (2) designated family/support persons are permitted over the age of 18.

## Can I accompany a friend or loved one to an emergency department, urgent care centre or ambulatory care?

Patients may identify one (1) designated family/support person (where possible) to accompany them while accessing ambulatory, emergency or urgent care services in AHS facilities.

Where physical distancing within clinic areas will not allow for the designated family/support person to be present, staff will communicate this and discuss options based on patient need.

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**The extent of restrictions may vary site-to-site due to patient circumstances, operational considerations and ability to maintain physical distancing.**

## Thinking of supporting or visiting a patient dying in hospital?

All persons considered to be end-of-life can have one (1) designated family/support person with them as much as required. If the room is large enough for physical distancing to be maintained, up to three (3) individuals may be with the patient at once. If all are from the same household, the limit is the number in the household and they are not required to distance from each other. The presence of visitors must be pre-arranged with the site/unit.

Up to two (2) designated family/support persons are permitted in critical care.

## What are the rules on supporting & visiting?

To support and visit a patient or resident you must:

- Wear designated family/support or visitor identification.
- Be feeling well with no COVID-19 symptoms, status or waiting on results of a test.
- Complete health screening prior to entering the facility.
- Continuously wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth.
- Maintain physical distance from others, when possible.
- Remain in the patient's room as much as possible and minimize movement within the facility.
- Perform hand hygiene (hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer) when entering and leaving the facility and when entering and leaving the patient's room.