



Hamilton Health Sciences **COVID-19 Update**

Date: Friday, March 20, 2020
To: Everyone at HHS
From: Kirsten Krull, VP, Quality and Performance and Chief Nursing Executive
Subject: **Visitor restrictions begin today**

Effective noon today, visitors will not be permitted at our hospitals. We are doing this to maintain a safe environment for our patients and colleagues. Visitors will only be permitted by exception, listed below. All visitors must be over the age of 18 (unless they are a patient coming to the hospital for an appointment and accompanied by an adult).

What are the exceptions?

Inpatients

Visiting is by exception only and determined and authorized by the clinical manager or delegate. Exceptions will be considered for patients with life-threatening situations or serious emergency surgeries and end of life care.

A pediatric patient being tested for COVID-19 or is a confirmed case

One parent/caregiver can be present. They must remain in the same room with the child, and wear appropriate PPE. This must be the same person for the duration of the patient's stay. Hospital meals will be provided to the parent, to support the need for them to remain in the room.

Ambulatory Clinics and Areas

One family member/caregiver is permitted if they are essential to support a patient to an appointment.

Emergency Department

One family member/caregiver is permitted if they are essential to support a patient in the ED. The team will determine length of stay of the visitor.

Patients Attending for Surgery or Other Procedures

One accompanying family/member/caregiver is permitted, if they are essential to support the patient to the preparation area, and then for pick up, if necessary, beyond the hospital entrance. For unique situations, the team may determine if waiting on the premises is allowed.

Patients who are pregnant or in labour

One accompanying family member/caregiver will be permitted to support the patient.

On rare instances, a clinical manager or delegate may consider more than one visitor, such as in end of life situations, taking all precautions to reduce risk of infection spread.

Any Family Member/Caregiver who has failed entrance screening questions are not permitted to visit.

For full details, read the [Family Presence Visiting Policy during COVID-19](#) in the Policy Library.

Thank you for your cooperation.