Key Messages

Public health measures lifting

- On March 21, Ontario will lift remaining COVID-19 public health measures such as capacity limits, proof of vaccination and masking.

- Patients and their families entrust Sinai Health to care for them when they are at their most vulnerable. Hospitals have a duty to ensure that patients are cared for in a safe environment.

- It is our priority to ensure a safe work environment for all our people, so they remain well and can continue to provide high-quality care to our patients.

Impact at Sinai Health

- There will be no change for those coming to Sinai Health's Mount Sinai and Hennick Bridgepoint Hospitals.

- The Government of Ontario's announcement related to lifting public health requirements for COVID-19 includes a condition that high-risk settings, like hospitals, can and should maintain infection prevention and control measures.

- The measures we have put in place through the pandemic are still in effect at our Mount Sinai and Hennick Bridgepoint campuses and all our buildings.

Patients: Arriving at Mount Sinai or Hennick Bridgepoint

- You can still expect to:

    - Wear a mask when entering any of our buildings.

    - Be screened for COVID-19 and asked to perform hand hygiene.

Essential care partners: Arriving at Mount Sinai or Hennick Bridgepoint

- There are no changes to the visitor policy at this time. You can still expect to:

    - Wear the mask provided to you all times in any of our buildings.

    - Be screened for COVID-19 and asked to perform hand hygiene.

    - Provide full proof of COVID-19 vaccination and personal identification.

Employees, physicians, scientists, learners or volunteers: Arriving at any of our buildings

- You still must follow all hospital policies, including

    - Wearing a mask

    - Tapping to attest

    - Cleaning your hands with hand sanitizer upon entering our buildings, and before leaving.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long will visitor restrictions be in place?

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change and evolve, the safety of our patients, visitors, employees and physicians remains paramount. We need to balance the need for family presence and the risk of outbreak. The phased approach to visitor allows us to be flexible in increasing or decreasing access as the situation changes. We are continually monitoring and will increase access when possible.

Q: Why are essential care partners required to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination to visit a patient?

Throughout the pandemic the safety of everyone in our hospitals has been paramount. Preventing exposures and outbreaks in health care settings are essential. Patients and their families entrust us to care for them when they are at their most vulnerable. Hospitals have a duty to ensure that patients are cared for in a safe environment. Our people must continue to follow personal protective equipment requirements and COVID-19 vaccine policies.

Essential care partners must continue to show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination and personal identification to visit a patient or accompany a patient to a clinic appointment.

Q: I recently had COVID-19, can I visit someone as an essential care partner?

Hospitals are a high-risk setting. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must wait 10 days after the date of specimen collection or symptom onset (whichever is earlier) before visiting the hospital.

Q: Public health guidelines have changed for those with a COVID diagnosis or high-risk exposure. Why can't I visit a patient as an essential care partner?

Hospitals are high-risk settings. We have a duty to ensure a safe environment for our patients and staff, as well as limit the risk of outbreaks. This is why anyone who is waiting for COVID-19 test results or living with someone who has COVID-19, will not be permitted to enter.

Q: I came back from an international trip, can I visit a patient as an essential care partner?

If you have travelled out of the country in the last 14 days, you must follow the return from travel requirements of the Canadian government before being permitted entry.