

SHHA COVID-19 Visiting Framework

Visiting permissions can change in response to efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as we aim to continue to protect the health and safety of our patients and staff. It may be necessary for the hospital to temporarily suspend all visiting in instances of hospital outbreak or where there is increased community transmission. We will do our best to keep you informed of changes to visiting permissions with updates posted here: <https://www.shha.on.ca/visitinghours/index.html>.

Visiting Guidelines:

- You must pass the **COVID-19 screening** prior to entering the hospital:
 - Monday to Friday—complete screening at the entrance of the South Huron Medical Centre (located across the street from the hospital)
 - Saturday/Sunday/Stat Holidays—complete screening at hospital
- You must be **pre-identified** as an essential caregiver/visitor. If your name is not on the list at the screening stations, you will not be permitted to visit.
- You **must wear a medical mask provided by the hospital** for the duration of your visit. The mask must fully cover your mouth and nose.
- If you are **sick** in any way, please delay your visit until you are feeling better.
- Please **self-isolate** as much as possible so that you are not exposing yourself to the virus and potentially bringing the virus into the hospital.
- Please **limit your movement** throughout the hospital.
- Please do not bring in **food or drinks**.
- Visiting is NOT permitted until a patient’s **COVID-19 test result** is back (this could take up to 48h).
 - Any patient in isolation with pending or positive COVID-19 results will not be permitted visitors.
- Visitors under **age 16** are not permitted.
- Visiting is permitted between **11am-7pm**.

In addition to these standard guidelines, SHHA will align into one of the categories below:

	Red	Yellow	Green
Essential Caregiver	<p>Essential Caregivers: Each patient will be provided the opportunity to identify their own essential caregiver(s). The name of the essential caregiver(s) will be tracked so nursing and screening staff are aware who may visit. Essential caregiver(s) may change if agreed to by the patient and/or POA. For any questions about essential caregiver(s), please call the nursing station at 519-235-2700 ext. 5186.</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential caregivers will only be permitted as deemed appropriate by the care team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than one (1) essential caregiver visiting a patient per day between the hours of 11am-7pm. • Essential caregivers will only be permitted <u>one admittance per day</u> for a maximum of 2 hours. • Essential caregivers will only be permitted outside of standard hours if deemed appropriate by the care team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than two (2) essential caregivers visiting a patient per day between the hours of 11am-7pm.
General Visitors	<p><u>General visiting is not permitted in person during the COVID-19 pandemic.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone options can be arranged with the patient’s care team. • Virtual visits (FaceTime, WhatsApp etc.) using the patient’s own device can also be arranged. 		

DEFINITIONS:

Essential Caregiver: *An individual whose presence has been deemed important for the safety and well-being of a patient and/or a patient who would otherwise be at risk if the essential caregiver were not present. (i.e. pediatric patients, palliative or actively dying patients, patients with cognitive or physical impairment).*

The presence of essential caregivers may be important for:

- **Safety** (cognitive impairment (dementia; delirium); interpretation/translation; etc.)
- **Enabling Care** (critical conversations; training to enable discharge; supporting patient with behavioural needs/safety or developmental/intellectual disabilities)
- **Compassionate Grounds** (palliative/end of life (EOL) in this admission; disclosure of life changing prognosis/diagnosis etc.)

General Visitor: *An individual who has not been identified as an essential caregiver, but still wishes to visit a patient.*