



Essential Caregiver Information

For Palliating Patients

We understand the significance and value of spending time with your loved one who is approaching end of life. We have carefully developed this guidance document to balance the safety of our patients, essential caregivers, staff and community with special circumstance consideration for Essential Caregiver presence.

Keeping our patients, families, caregivers, staff and physicians safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic is important and, for this reason, restrictions are in place. A unit in outbreak requires additional safety measures to be put in place as directed by Public Health. Requests for special circumstance consideration should be directed to the unit Manager where the patient is receiving care.

Please note that this framework does not guarantee our ability to allow attendance.

Unit status where patient is receiving care	Patient Status	Number of Essential Caregivers	Length of Visit
Unit is not in COVID-19 Outbreak	Patient is COVID-19 negative and NOT imminently approaching end of life	1 healthy symptom-free Essential Caregiver may visit	Once per day between the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and scheduled with the unit.
Unit is not in COVID-19 Outbreak	Patient is COVID-19 negative and imminently approaching end of life	2-3 healthy symptom-free Essential Caregivers may visit; 1-2 at a time.	24/7 as approved by the unit.
COVID-19 Outbreak/Non-Variant Additional infection control measures are in place.	Patient is COVID-19 negative and imminently approaching end of life	2-3 healthy symptom-free Essential Caregivers may visit; 1-2 at a time	Up to 4 hours each during a 24 hour period as approved and scheduled by the unit.
COVID-19 Positive or Under Investigation patient/Non-Variant Additional infection control measures are in place	Patient is COVID-19 positive or under investigation and imminently approaching end of life	2-3 healthy symptom-free Essential Caregivers may visit; 1-2 at a time	Up to 30 minutes each during a 24-hour period as approved and scheduled by the unit.
<i>If a patient at any time is significantly approaching end of life (or death) outside the permitted times, the essential caregiver(s) will be contacted by the unit and/or manager of the area the patient is receiving care.</i>			

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Guidelines for Your Visit

Visits are scheduled with the unit and/or manager of the area that the patient is receiving care.

Essential Caregivers:

- Must pass screening
- Will be informed of their risk of visiting
- Must perform hand hygiene on arrival, prior to room entry, upon departure of room, at departure of hospital
- PPE requirements: a mask must be worn at all times. Additional PPE requirements could include a gown, eye protection, and gloves.
- Will receive careful instruction on the proper requirement, use of, including putting on and taking off processes for the required personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Will participate in required PPE monitoring on entry and exit to the outbreak unit and on entry and exit of a patient room
- For Outbreak unit or COVID-19 positive patient room, 2 metre distancing must be maintained at all times
- Must remain in the patient's room and are permitted to use the patient washroom
- May not leave the building and return to the patient room (e.g. for smoking/vaping, meal)
- May not consume food and/or beverages in the room in which the patient is receiving care

Infection prevention and control measures is required for attendance by essential caregivers.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the unit manager of the area where the patient is receiving care.

Definitions:

PPE - Personal Protective Equipment.

Essential Caregiver(s) - designated by the patient and can be a family member, friend or neighbour who provides support, assistance and care in any capacity.

These guidelines have been reviewed and endorsed by HPHA Patient Partners & Family Caregivers

