

March 19, 2020

### **Attention: Families and Support Persons of Patients in Manitoba's Acute Care Facilities**

Given the evolving COVID-19 Pandemic, Public Health Officials, health system leaders, facilities, health care providers and staff are taking all necessary precautions to control the spread of this virus.

Across Manitoba, strict infection prevention and control precautions are required to protect patients and the public in all health care settings, including acute care facilities. For the safety of your loved ones, visitor access is being immediately suspended within all acute care facilities. This change is temporary and takes effect March 19 at 3:00 p.m.

Exceptions for compassionate reasons and end of life will continue to be made on a case-by-case basis. Visitors may be permitted to the following areas following screening:

- Obstetrics
- NICU Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- PICU Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
- Emergency Departments

CancerCare Manitoba will continue to allow one person to accompany cancer patients to their appointments and one (1) parent/guardian at a time will be permitted to visit pediatric patients.

Please note, the following individuals are asked to not visit Acute Care patients.

Those who have:

- Cold or flu-like symptoms (cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache)
- Had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case
- Had close contact with someone being tested for COVID-19 at this time
- Been instructed to self-isolate or self-monitor for 14 days

We recognize the very special role that loved ones play in the healing of patients and will work together with you to accommodate exceptional circumstances. We appreciate your understanding as we implement these heightened precautions to protect patients, many of whom have underlying medical conditions that put them at greatest risk of becoming severely ill due to COVID-19.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

You can stay up-to-date with the latest evolving COVID-19 information by visiting [www.gov.mb.ca](http://www.gov.mb.ca)