Frequently Asked Questions
Visitation to Hospitals (Patient & Family)
(Latest updates will appear in blue)

Who is eligible for general visitation to hospitals?
Manitobans are eligible to visit inpatients in Green Zones for social visits. Visitors are family and friends who visit for social reasons. Their time with the patient is discretionary and short term. They are not involved in the care of the patient. Please see the Visitation Guidelines for Acute and Long Term Care.

What about visits to Orange and Red Zone patients?
Designated Caregiver access to ORANGE and RED zone patients should continue to occur virtually wherever possible. In-person visitation is considered in order to meet care needs of the patient.

General visitor access to orange and red zone patients is not permitted, except in End of Life situations.

Why is there a difference in how general visitors and Designated Caregivers are treated?
Designated caregivers provide physical, psychological and emotional support, as deemed important by the patient/resident. This care can include support in decision making, care coordination and continuity of care. Designated caregiver can include family members, close friends or other caregivers and are identified by the patient/resident or substitute decision maker. (Note: Designated caregiver language replaces essential care partner and designated family caregiver).

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Does my visit need to be scheduled?
Visits should occur during regular visiting hours. Please speak to the care team on the unit to establish the appropriate time to visit.

Do I need to wear Personal Protective Equipment?
Yes. General visitors and Designated Caregivers will continue to be provided with appropriate PPE to be worn for the duration of their visit.

Physical distancing is encouraged during visits, both from the patient and from other visitors and staff. Designated Caregivers permitted to visit ORANGE or RED zones will be required to wear additional PPE.

Can more than one General Visitor visit at one time?
Yes. The number of visitors allowed at a time will be determined by the site based on the space the visitation is taking place in. Please see the Visitation Guidelines for Acute and Long Term Care.
What are the guidelines for visitor access to Emergency Departments or Urgent Care Centres?
Two designated caregivers may accompany a patient in the emergency department or urgent care centre. Access is dependent upon consideration of space. The designated caregiver will be required to wear a medical mask. Please see the Visitation Guidelines for Acute and Long Term Care.

What are the guidelines for visitor access to outpatient appointments (e.g., diagnostics, cancer care, renal)?
Two Designated Caregivers may accompany a patient in the emergency department or urgent care centre. Access is dependent upon consideration of space. The Designated Caregiver will be required to wear a medical mask. Please see the Visitation Guidelines for Acute and Long Term Care.

What are the guidelines for End of Life visitation?
General visitors are permitted in end of life situations. Please see the Visitation Guidelines for Acute and Long Term Care.

During the estimated last month of life, a maximum of four Designated Caregivers may be identified to visit.

Respecting every situation is unique, additional Designated Caregivers (beyond the maximum of four) is to be managed on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with site leadership and regional IP&C.

Can Designated Caregivers accompany pediatric (children) or neonatal patients?
Yes. Pediatrics parents/guardians are the substitute decision-makers for their children and frequently provide essential support, therefore two designated parent/guardians may visit daily, and one may remain overnight with the child. Screening and use of appropriate PPE and all other infection prevention and control protocols remain requirements.

What are the guidelines regarding Designated Caregivers accompanying a woman in labour/delivery/postpartum?
Designated Caregiver access will continue to be supported in circumstancing involving labor and delivery/postpartum. Screening and use of appropriate PPE and all other infection prevention and control protocols remain requirements.
Change Tracker

June 28, 2022

- Updates to eye protection, visitation, physical distancing

March 2, 2022

- Updated to remove vaccination requirements for general visitors and Designated Caregivers.
- Updated to remove requirement that patient and all roommates (in shared room) be fully vaccinated. Vaccination status is no longer a consideration for visitation.

February 16, 2022

- Updated to permit the first phase of expanded visitor access as Manitoba moves to Pandemic Restriction Level Yellow.
  - Fully vaccinated General Visitors will be permitted.
  - Designated Caregivers may be permitted in ED/UC and outpatient appointments provided physical distancing can be maintained with other patients and their ECP.

November 19, 2021

- Updated to require Designated Caregivers to provide proof of full vaccination upon entry to an acute care facility.
- Updated to ensure clarity with respect to designated parent/guardian and Designated Caregiver access involving labour, delivery and postpartum care.