



COVID-19: Essential Visitor Information

An **“Essential Visitor”** is a person who provides critical and often ongoing personal, psychological and physical support, assistance, for people in need of support due to frailty, illness, degenerative diseases, physical/cognitive/mental disability or end of life circumstances.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- assistance with feeding
- providing support to those patients who require redirection, are confused or have dementia
- patients who have significant language barrier impeding care

The patient or their substitute decision maker will decide who they want their Essential Visitor to be.

The name of the Essential Visitor of an admitted patient must be on the list at the main entrance screening station and the Essential Visitor must pass screening in order to enter the hospital.

Current Policy:

The Essential Visitor Policy is aligned with Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health’s designated community colour, (*from Ontario’s Covid-19 Response Framework*), as well as any outbreak activity within the hospital. As a result, the Essential Visitor policy may change with minimal notice.

Essential Visitors are to:

- Maintain 2 metre physical distancing
- Sanitize/Wash hands often
- Not eat or drink in patient room at any time
- Encourage the patient to wear a mask during your visit
- Follow all posted safety protocols at all times. Failure to do so may result in you being asked to leave the hospital

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Face Masks

A hospital provided face mask must be worn **AT ALL TIMES** while in hospital. This includes all public spaces and with the patient in their hospital room or treatment area. No food or drink will be permitted at the patient's bedside.

Please encourage the patient to wear a mask during your visit.

Hand Hygiene

Perform hand hygiene frequently, but always when:

- ✓ Arriving at the clinical unit
- ✓ Entering the patient room
- ✓ Leaving the patient room
- ✓ Leaving the clinical unit

Entering & Exiting In-Patient Units

Essential Visitors are to go directly to the patient's location and leave the building immediately after they leave the patient's room or treatment area.

Failure to follow posted safety protocols will result in privileges being removed. Please respect all physical distancing signage located throughout the hospital. Do not linger in the halls or at the nurse's station. Instead, use the call bell in the patient's room for any questions.

Additional Safety Measures

Depending on the patient's condition, essential visitors may need to wear *additional protection*. If this Stop sign is found on the door of the patient room, follow the instructions for what protective equipment is required *at all times*, while in the patient's room.

Steps for gown and glove protection:

Before going into the room:

1. Wash hands with sanitizer found on the wall
2. Put on the yellow (one-size) gown found in the supply cart in the hallway
3. Put on eye protection
4. Put on disposable gloves (small, medium or large)

When leaving the room, for any reason:

1. Remove gloves, and dispose in the garbage, then wash hands
2. Remove gown and place in dirty linen cart in room
3. Wash hands again with sanitizer before leaving the room
4. Remove eye protection. Sanitize the eye protection with the wipes on the supply cart. Keep your eye protection for your next visit.



***Do not wear your gown or gloves outside of the patient's room.
Remove these items before leaving.***