

## Introduction

### 1.1. Purpose

This policy outlines the visitor restrictions for BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre and BC Children's Hospital.

This policy aligns with BC Ministry of Health's family and visitor directive for the infection and prevention and control for novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

### 1.2. Scope

This policy applies to patients, family, clients, visitors and provides direction for staff.

## Policy

This policy supports the BC Ministry of Health requirements for preventing and controlling novel coronavirus.

All staff must abide by this policy to protect the patients, clinicians, health care workers and the public.

Effective immediately, visitors are restricted to essential visitors only.

Child visitors such as siblings or friends are not allowed

For the duration of the patient's time at the hospital, only designated adult(s) will be allowed to enter the hospital.

Adhering to protective personal equipment (PPE) requirements during essential visits is mandatory.

### 2.1 Essential Visits

As per the BC Ministry of Health family and visitor directive, essential visits include, but are not limited to:

2.1.1. Visits for compassionate care (e.g., end of life and critical illness)

2.1.2. A partner/caregiver/supporter of a child/neonate/woman, that is deemed essential.

2.1.3. Visits considered essential for patient/client care and well-being (e.g., assistance with feeding or mobility)

### 2.2 Designated caregiver/support person

A designated caregiver/support person is an asymptomatic person that will remain with the patient throughout the admission.

If the designated caregiver/support person develops symptoms they will be asked to put on a mask and leave the hospital. They will be asked to isolate for at least 10 days from symptom onset or until symptoms have resolved (whichever is longer). At that time, a new asymptomatic designated caregiver/support person can be identified.

An essential caregiver/support person who is symptomatic will be required to wear a mask and be restricted to the patient's room while on site.

The designated caregiver/support person will be identified to staff and asked to wear a patient identification band. The band will be provided when the patient is admitted. When a new support person is required the band will be removed, discarded and a new wrist band is to be provided to the new support person.

The number of designated caregiver/support is outlined below.

Program/Department/Unit	# of designated asymptomatic Caregiver(s)/ Supporter(s)	Symptomatic Patient Droplet and contact precautions in place
<b>BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre</b>		
Urgent Care Centre/Outpatient Clinics	1	Restricted to room
Maternity Inpatient	1	Ambulate in room only
	Doula's are considered part of patient's care team. Doula must be asymptomatic and cannot participate if patient symptomatic.	
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)	2	Restricted to room
<b>BC Children's Hospital</b>		
Inpatient programs	2	Restricted to room
Ambulatory	1	Restricted to room
Emergency Department	1	Restricted to room

## Compliance

All staff members are responsible for adhering to this policy and monitoring activities in accordance with the policy. Staff members may warn others if they observe a violation of this policy.

## Definitions

Designated caregiver/support person - A designated caregiver/support person is an asymptomatic person that will remain with the patient throughout the admission.

## References

BC Ministry of Health policy communique: Infection prevention and control for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). March 20, 2020.

## Version History

DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER and TITLE	ACTION TAKEN
27-Mar-2020	C-0506-11-60580 COVID-19: Visitor Restrictions	Developed by COVID-19 Response Working Group; Approved by Professional Practice Director

## Disclaimer

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