Family and Community COVID-19 Update  
August 26, 2021

Fueled by the delta variant, COVID-19 cases are rising and we are now in the fourth wave of the pandemic. Last week the province announced it was pausing any plans to exit from the Roadmap to Reopen – meaning we will stay in Stage 3 for now.

Here at the hospital we have made some positive strides toward resuming some of our off-unit services to help improve the patient experience and patient access and flow. This process does require extensive planning and we are balancing this with the ongoing needs of current patients and ongoing possibility of future surge cases.

We remain in Phase 3 of visitation for now, which allows for two (2) visitors at a time for each patient. Visits will continue to be by appointment only and must be scheduled at least 72 hours in advance. While it has been wonderful to have patient visitors, this protocol is subject to change without notice based on community risk. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, our teams are making every effort to facilitate video or telephone visits. Please speak with a member of the care team about visits.

Vaccines continue to be one of the most important avenues out of this pandemic. In accordance with a government directive, we are drafting a COVID-19 vaccination policy for staff, physicians, volunteers and contractors. We are very pleased that a large percentage of our staff have already had at least one dose of the vaccine along with many of our patients, and second doses are well underway. We are very optimistic about our vaccination rates and encourage everyone to get their vaccine. Vaccines are safe and effective. For more information on vaccines, visit https://covid-19.ontario.ca/.

Even with vaccines, we must all continue to adhere to all infection and prevention control protocols including personal protective equipment. Our staff are required to wear masks and eye protection on our clinical units and in spaces where 6ft/2 meters distance cannot be maintained. While patients are not required to wear masks off the unit, it is recommended for their safety.

We continue to be inspired by our staff who rise to the challenge every day to provide exceptional mental health care to patients in these extraordinary circumstances. We will continue to do our part locally and provincially to get through this pandemic.

This update and all others can be found on our website at www.waypointcentre.ca.

Resources for Patients and Families
Supports for patients and families are available at the contacts below. More information can be found at www.waypointcentre.ca/patients__families

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<tr>
<th>Spiritual Care</th>
<th>Patient/Client &amp; Family Council</th>
<th>Patient Relations Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Multifaith Chaplains and Traditional Healer 705-549-3181, ext. 2850</td>
<td>A peer-led organization committed to using personal experiences to improve mental health &amp; addiction services 705-549-3181, ext. 2222</td>
<td>For patient related issues – feedback, questions and concerns 705-549-3181, ext. 2999</td>
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