Family and Community COVID-19 Update
January 11, 2022

We continue to grapple with the COVID-19 Omicron variant across the province, in the health care system in general, and at Waypoint. We are working together as one health care system across the province to respond to these unprecedented challenges.

With up to 35 per cent of our staff off on any given day due to COVID related concerns, we must do everything we can to maximize our resources to continue to provide essential mental health care. A new team-based model of care is being implemented this week with a shift from one large team of staff caring for patients in most areas to a handful of small teams per unit, each with specific patient assignments. This new model of care will also see some of our allied care partners, such as social workers, occupational therapists, psychologists, psychometrists, concurrent disorders counsellors and registered psychotherapists, working with our nurses as part of these smaller teams.

What does this mean for patients and families? The new model of care may mean that some people on your treatment team, as well as both individual and group sessions, may change in the short term as we get through these next few weeks. It also means there may be some longer delays in communicating with families as our work schedules change. Family members can still call the social worker but it may take longer for a response. Alternatively, you can request to leave a message. Additional support is available for both patients and families through the Patient/Client and Family Council by calling 705-526-4569 or 705-549-3181, ext. 2222. We appreciate your patience and kindness as people learn new and different roles.

Along with these changes, we also restricted unaccompanied off-unit access for patients, and effective Tuesday, January 11, 2022, suspended all general visitation. Designated essential visitors/care partners and visitors for palliative patients will be permitted to continue. The only exception to this is for the Bayview and Horizon Programs. Due to outbreaks currently on these programs, essential care visits are suspended at this time. This will be re-evaluated in two weeks on January 24, 2022.

We continue to encourage vaccines for everyone and they are available at any time for patients. Vaccines continue to be one of the best ways to not get really sick if you do get COVID-19. The Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table is reporting that you have an 80 % chance of staying out of hospital or getting seriously ill with two (2) vaccines, and this rises to 90 % if you have a booster.

We know these changes may be hard and we thank you for patience. We also want to express our thanks to our staff for their tireless support in caring for our patients.

Horizon Program outbreak update:
• Ten (10) patients tested positive for COVID-19
• The entire program is in outbreak status with enhanced droplet/contact isolation precautions in place

Bayview Program outbreak update:
• Two (2) patient tested positive for COVID-19
• All affected patients are in isolation and being monitored
• Enhanced droplet/contact precautions in place

In general, all patients have mild symptoms and we hope this continues.

**Resources for Patients and Families**
Supports for patients and families are available from our Spiritual Care Team, the Patient/Client and Family Council and the Patient Relations Office. More information can be found at [www.waypointcentre.ca/patients___families](http://www.waypointcentre.ca/patients___families)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Spiritual Care</strong></th>
<th><strong>Patient/Client &amp; Family Council</strong></th>
<th><strong>Patient Relations Office</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>Available to listen to your feedback and work to answer your questions and resolve your concerns 705-549-3181, ext. 2999</td>
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