Family and Community COVID-19 Update
October 20, 2021

Updated COVID-19 Visitor Policy includes Proof of Vaccination for Visitors starting Nov. 15th

COVID-19 continues to affect our communities and remains a concern across our region and the province with the most severe impacts being on those who are unvaccinated. As a hospital, Waypoint is committed to doing everything possible to protect our patients, staff, and communities. Vaccination is our best defense against this virus and we are grateful to all those who have already been vaccinated.

In September 2021, along with 14 other hospitals in Ontario Health Central Region, Waypoint implemented a vaccination policy for employees, credentialed staff, contractors, learners/students, and volunteers. As a result of this policy vaccination rates continue to increase.

To continue our efforts in ensuring the safest possible hospital environment, and in collaboration with our partner hospitals, we are now implementing a requirement that visitors must be fully vaccinated before entering the hospital with some exceptions. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, virtual visits are always available.

Beginning November 15th, all visitors, designated essential caregivers and others coming to the hospital will need to provide proof of vaccination along with photo identification, or provide documentation they have been granted a provincially recognized medical exemption from a physician or nurse practitioner. There will be some limited exceptions such as palliative situations.

While we recognize the important role visitors have on the well-being of patients, we also must ensure Waypoint is as safe as possible for patients, staff and visitors. Please know this decision was made with extensive consultation and consideration for issues of equity, fairness and ethical concerns. As one of the hardest-hit regions during this pandemic and because of the proven effectiveness of the vaccine against this virus and its variants, we encourage everyone eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

As with all hospitals, vaccination is not a condition to receive care at Waypoint.

If you have any questions about visitors, please speak to the program on which your loved one is receiving care, or reach out to one of the resources for patients and families listed below.

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](http://www.waypointcentre.ca/patients__families)

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<tr>
<th><strong>Spiritual Care</strong></th>
<th><strong>Patient/Client &amp; Family Council</strong></th>
<th><strong>Patient Relations Office</strong></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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