

October 20, 2021

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

We communicated in the Oct. 15th Bulletin that Waypoint, in conjunction with 15 hospitals throughout Central Region, will be implementing a requirement that visitors must be fully vaccinated before entering the hospital with some exceptions.

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. You can find the joint Visitor Vaccination Policy Letter of Intent from the Central Region Hospital Operations Table on PenNIE. As noted in the letter this decision was made with extensive consultation and consideration for issues of equity, fairness and ethical concerns.

This change will be effective beginning November 15th and will include visitors, designated essential caregivers and others coming to the hospital. The updated Guideline Addendum to the Visitor Policy related to Managing Patient Visits during COVID-19 will be shared next week.

Details include:

- 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.
- These will be some limited exceptions such as palliative situations.

Information to share with Patients, Families and Community Partners is also available on PenNIE and has been emailed to all staff. We are also sharing information on the website and the phone message will be updated to reflect this change. Those who are booking visits will also have information shared with them to help with the conversation.

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

Thank you to the visitor working group and everyone involved in the planning for this change as well as implementation going forward. Nick West, Patient Relations Officer, can be contacted for support of concerns from patients and families. Please speak to your manager if you have questions which can be brought forward to next Tuesday's all managers meeting and addressed in next week's Safe&Well.