



**W&C Program Guidelines for ECPs who have Travelled outside Northern Ontario  
(Repatriated Patients)  
November 2020**

**Purpose:**

Essential Care Partners (ECPs) who have travelled outside Northern Ontario to accompany their child or their pregnant partner for medical appointments/treatment are allowed only for patients who meet the ECP criteria as detailed in the Visitor and Care Partner recommendations in all W&C departments, including NICU.

These ECPs must pass all screening criteria except for “Travel outside of Northern Ontario”. If any other screening criteria are failed, the ECP will not be allowed.

If the patient does not meet the criteria to have an Essential Care Partner (ECP), their Care Partner (CP) who traveled with them will not allowed as they will fail the travel portion of screening and are not essential to the patient’s care. This process will remain in place when the hospital moves to allow Care Partners (CPs) for all patients.

**Process:**

1. ECPs will need to be screened on arrival and instructed to wear a mask and perform good hand hygiene.
2. ECPs returning from outside Northern Ontario do not require a swab, however may be swabbed at the Assessment Centre if in agreement and only if surveillance swabbing is available.
3. ECPs returning from an outbreak facility require a consultation with Infection Control and must be tested for COVID-19. Confirmation of negative results must be received prior to admission to the NICU. The determination of outbreak facility will be identified by infection control as per current process.
4. It is mandatory that ECPs wear a mask when outside of their child’s room and when healthcare staff are present. It is mandatory that the ECP wears a mask at all times while in NICU.
5. Procedure masks will be required instead of cloth masks for ECPs who have returned from a facility in outbreak or when they have travelled to accompany their child or their pregnant partner for a medical appointment/treatment.
6. ECPs are required to go directly to their child’s room and are requested to remain in the room until they leave.
7. ECPs will be screened daily upon entering the hospital or if remaining overnight (Paediatrics or NICU parenting room), will be screened by the unit nursing staff
8. If at any time the ECP becomes symptomatic, they will be asked to leave and advised to contact the Assessment Centre to arrange to be tested. They will not be permitted to return until they have been medically cleared.
  - a. Staff are required to report this occurrence to IPAC



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9. Special circumstance swabbing can be arranged through your manager or coordinator if indicated.