

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



To: All staff and professional staff

From: Dr. Stewart Kennedy, COVID-19 Incident Manager

Date: December 23, 2020

RE: **Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Guidance Document**

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The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients, care partners and the community is our utmost priority. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, our Hospital's Care Partner (CP) and Essential Care Partner (ECP) guidelines must adjust accordingly. As such, a Guidance Document has been developed to help clarify expectations related to CP and ECP guidelines and outline a safe, compassionate and evidence-informed approach to reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the hospital.

Please review the attached Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Guidance Document for a more detailed breakdown of the updated CP and ECP guidelines as they pertain to each level of our Hospital's pandemic response. **We are currently in the CONTROL level.** Please note that our Hospital's level is distinct from provincial levels.

The Guidance Document also introduces the CP/ECP Appeals process for when a request for ECP/CP exception is unresolved through discussions between the patient/ECP/CP and manager and/or director.

The restrictions outlined in the document take into consideration the current burden of COVID-19 in our community, the patient's clinical factors, managerial and organizational factors, and most importantly, patient/family factors. We recognize that each patient is unique and the complex variables surrounding their optimal care will require evaluation, reevaluation and flexibility. The guidance document is not intended to limit decisions to meet an individual patient's needs but to provide a standard framework for reference.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to health and safety.

For questions or concerns, please contact your manager.

All Hospital COVID-19 updates and Guidance Documents are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.