

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

To: All Staff and Professional Staff

From: Dr. Peter Voros, COVID-19 Incident Manager, EVP In-Patient Care Programs

Date: May 25, 2021

RE: **Revised Essential Care Partner Guidelines**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, and to better support our patients and families, our Hospital's Care Partner (CP) and Essential Care Partner (ECP) guidelines must adjust accordingly.

Effective Wednesday, May 26, 2021, the following changes in ECP access will be implemented:

1. All inpatients will be granted one ECP unless indicated otherwise in the **Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Guidance Document**. Please refer to the **Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Guidance Document** for guidelines specific to specialty inpatient areas and certain patient populations.
2. All outpatients will be granted one ECP as required and as outlined in the **Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Guidance Document**.
3. ECPs requesting access to end-of-life patients, who fail screening due to travel, will be allowed an initial visitation followed by in-house priority testing to support subsequent visitation. Please refer to the **Essential Care Partner Decision Making** document for details outlining this process.
4. Individuals visiting a COVID-19 positive patient facing end of life will be allowed in room access conditional on the completion of the new **Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Consent to Risk of Visiting Patient (COVID-19)**. Please refer to the **Essential Care Partner Decision Making** document for details outlining this process.

For your reference, the following supporting documents are attached and can be found at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>:

- Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Guidance Document
- Essential Care Partner Decision Making
- Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Consent to Risk of Visiting Patient (COVID-19)
- Symptomatic Household Member/Essential Care Provider Fax Sheet

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

Essential Care Partner access balances the importance of patients having the support of their care partners while also maintaining safety within the departments. Exceptions to these guidelines will be considered on an individual basis and should be directed to the Unit Manager, After Hours Leader or Administrative Coordinator.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our staff and patients.

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