

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers

From: Jennifer Wintermans, EVP, Communications & Corporate Relations, COVID-19 Lead

Date: January 7, 2022

RE: **Essential Care Partner Clarification**

As a reminder, while Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's internal COVID-19 Pandemic Response Level is in RED (control), our Hospital's Care Partner (CP) and Essential Care Partner (ECP) guidelines are as follows:

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**.

Essential Care Partners are allowed daily access between the hours 0800-2000 and at this time there is **no restriction** on the number of daily visits for ECPs and no restriction on ECPs leaving patient rooms.

We recognize the importance of minimizing movement throughout the Hospital at this time and as a result we are strongly **recommending** that ECPs make efforts to reduce the number of visits during the day as well as their movement throughout the facility. The Care Partner Liaisons will highlight these recommendations during their interactions with the patient and their Essential Care Partners.

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 (v.10)
- Essential Care Partner Decision Making
- Care Partner/Essential Care Partner Consent to Risk of Visiting Patient (COVID-19)

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

For questions or concerns, please contact your Manager.