

To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers

From: Jennifer Wintermans, VP, Quality and Corporate Affairs, COVID-19 Lead, and Adam Vinet, VP, Patient Experience and Chief Nursing Executive, Regional VP, Cancer Care Services

Date: November 17, 2022

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

As we continue to move through the COVID-19 pandemic, and with added pressures of respiratory illness and influenza, it is important to balance the need to provide both safe and compassionate care. To align with the memo circulated on November 15, 2022 regarding the move to [COVID-19 Response Level Red \(Control\)](#), please note that *Version 12* of the Essential Care Partner and Care Partner Guidance document should be referenced under the Red “Control” category.

The document can be found on the iNtranet: [Guidance Document - Care Partner/Essential Care Partner](#) and is attached for ease of reference.

We continue to allow unlimited ECPs and CPs (2 at a time) 24hrs, for end of life patients and 1 ECP as needed and identified by the patient for palliative care patients.

It is recognized that compassion and complex variables that often impact the patient care needs do not always align with these restrictions; there are considerations for exceptions. In situations that must deviate from the guidance, please make certain this is managed at the unit level. Unit level decisions must consider all factors with each individual and the level of activity upon the unit. As well, if the unit is in outbreak then there are added pressures that must be considered.

As a reminder, ECPs should be reminded of mandatory masking and follow the requirements as per ECP guidelines. Physical distancing should continue to be encouraged.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.