



Eastern
Health

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Eastern Health Implements Visitor Restrictions at all Facilities

February 13, 2021 – St. John's, NL: Eastern Health is implementing full visitor restrictions at all health-care and long-term care facilities in the Eastern Health region. This means that all in-person visits to patients on hospital wards and residents in long-term care facilities are suspended until further notice and the general public are asked not to visit any patients during this time.

The following exceptions apply:

- Pediatric in-patients are permitted to have both parents/guardians as support persons, and **one** of these individuals may be present at a time.
- Labour and delivery patients may have a partner/significant other present during labour and delivery. This person is also permitted to stay with the mother and baby for up to four hours when they are moved to the post-partum unit for bonding time.
- For direction on palliative care and end-of-life visitation, please discuss the specific situation with the health-care team.

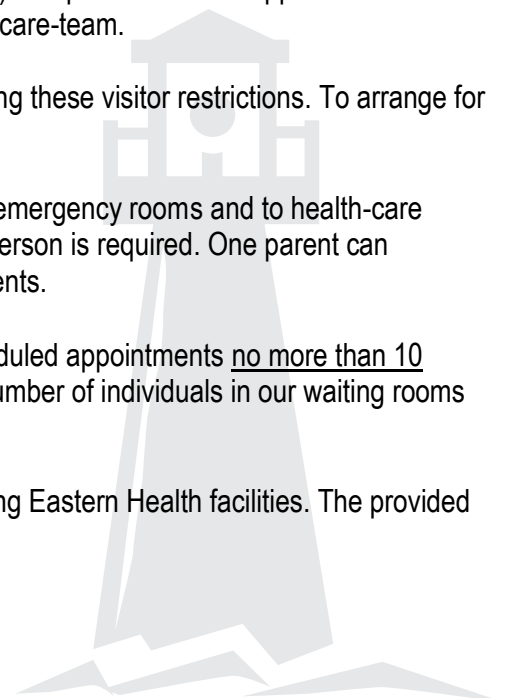
In certain exceptional circumstances, inpatients and residents may be permitted **one** designated support person/caregiver for the duration of their stay while these restrictions are in place, consistent with Eastern Health's Family Presence and General Visitation policy. A support person may be a relative, legal guardian, friend, or formal/informal caregiver who provides direct care to the client (e.g. feeding support, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, and assistance in decision-making). If a patient feels a support person/caregiver is required, they should discuss their request with their care-team.

Virtual visitation can be an alternate way to connect with loved ones during these visitor restrictions. To arrange for a virtual visit, please also discuss your request with the care team.

At this time, Eastern Health is also asking that all individuals present to emergency rooms and to health-care appointments at Eastern Health facilities on their own unless a support person is required. One parent can accompany children in the emergency department or for other appointments.

Eastern Health reminds the public that they should present to their scheduled appointments no more than 10 minutes prior to their scheduled time. This will assist with reducing the number of individuals in our waiting rooms and allow for physical distancing.

For everyone's safety, masks are provided to patients and visitors entering Eastern Health facilities. The provided mask **must** be worn by **all** visitors while in the facility.



Anyone experiencing one single symptom of COVID-19 is asked to complete the online self-assessment and referral tool at www.811healthline.ca or call the NL Health Line 811 to arrange testing.

Eastern Health understands these changes to visitation are difficult, but they are critically important to the safety of our patients, clients, residents, staff and physicians during the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for your understanding and collaboration during this unprecedented time.

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