

June 4, 2020

Dear TCU client/TCU Family member

**SUBJECT: Hospital/Health Centre – Expanding Visitor Access during COVID-19**

We know that family and friends are integral to the healing and overall health and well-being of patients in hospitals and health centres across Manitoba. During these trying times, we have seen and supported a surge of creative ways to connect with loved ones, including virtual visits. While preventing the spread of this virus remains a central priority, the likelihood that COVID-19 will be a part of our 'new normal' for a longer duration requires us to find a longer-term balance that includes necessary preventative measures and that allows safe forms of interaction between patients and their loved ones.

Accordingly, this is to advise that, effective Monday, June 8, **we will be expanding visitor access for inpatients** at the Misericordia Health Centre with the following considerations and precautions:

- For most inpatients, one Designated Support Person can be identified to visit; exceptions will be made to allow a second designated visitor under the age of 14 accompanied by an adult. *Designated Support Persons are those deemed essential to the emotional wellbeing, health, and quality of life of your loved one. In most cases, visitors should be close family and/or friends who have a clearly established pattern of involvement in providing care and support.*
- If a patient's length of stay reaches 14 days and discharge is unlikely to occur in the next 72 hours, two designated visitors can be identified to visit and will be allowed to visit (one at a time) for the remainder of the patient's stay in hospital/health centre.
- Case-by-case exceptions exist for visits to patients in labour & delivery, pediatrics and end-of-life care, at the discretion of the site/care team.
- Certain exceptions may also be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the clinical team and/or site.
- Based on evaluation of risk as well as operational clinical judgement, the site may be unable to facilitate visits for certain patients.
- To comply with physical distancing measures, sites may need to restrict the number of visits per time slot in the visiting area. Visits must occur during visiting hours and will not include "come and go" access.

**Your care team will reach out to you to obtain the name of your Designated Support Person. At that time, you are encouraged to address any further enquiries you may have regarding visitation.**

**Please ensure your visitor(s) are informed of the following requirements:**

- Screening of all visitors must occur, including assessment for symptoms or known exposure to COVID-19, prior to entry. Restrictions will apply to visitors who have travelled outside of Manitoba within the past 14 days. No visitor shall be permitted if they have any cold/flu or other COVID-19 symptoms.
- All designated visitors must comply with Infection Prevention and Control measures. This includes strict hand hygiene and maintaining physical distancing (6 feet/2 metres apart) at all times.
- Wearing of medical PPE may be required at the direction of the care team. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- Designated visitors will be asked to sign in at the time of their visit(s). This information will be retained solely for the purpose of Public Health contact tracing should a COVID-19 case investigation be required within a unit.

Regular assessment by public health officials of the impact and evaluation of the need for adjusted visitor restrictions will continue as developments evolve. Once again, thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we take every measure to protect you, your loved ones and our staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Taylor  
Director of Long Term Care