

Who can visit:

Two (2) fully vaccinated visitors/essential care partners (ECPs) OR one (1) fully vaccinated and (1) partially or unvaccinated visitor/ECP may be present with a patient in Labour and Delivery (L&D); one (1) fully, partially or unvaccinated visitor/ECP may be present with a patient in Triage. Two (2) fully vaccinated visitors/ECPs may be present with a patient on the Post Partum Unit (2W), with one (1) vaccinated visitor/ECP is permitted at the bedside at any given time; **no unvaccinated visitors/ECPs are permitted on the Post Partum Unit (2W).** One (1) visitor/ECP per family may be present with any patient who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days, in any of the program areas. Visits with COVID positive patients will be time limited and must be coordinated in advance. Our teams will endeavor to support the visitor/ECP to be present for the birth of the infant(s). Identified visitors/ECPs will be asked additional screening questions for COVID-19 related symptoms. This is to ensure that any visitors within our care environments are not unwell. This will help limit the spread of COVID-19 to parents, infants, families, support persons and healthcare workers.

Please identify and provide the names of visitors/ECPs who will be present with the patient in L&D to our NYGH team at the time of admission. Please also identify for our team, the name of the visitor/ECP who will accompany the patient during their transfer to the Post Partum Unit (2W). The name and telephone contact information of visitors/ECPs will be logged in our system. Visitors/ECPs will be provided with a special wristband to identify them as an approved visitor. NYGH staff will ask to view these bands upon entry to L&D and/or 2W. New visitors/ECPs for all patients may be identified every 24-hours.

For longer-stay patients admitted to L&D for monitoring before their baby is born, one fully, partially or unvaccinated visitor/ECP will be permitted to stay in the hospital with the patient overnight.

Precautions for entering the hospital

Please do not visit or plan to be a visitor/ECP if you are sick. North York General Hospital is actively screening and monitoring for COVID-19 related symptoms to protect the health and safety of patients and staff against COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. Upon entry to the hospital, you will be provided with an approved, three-layer mask. This is always to be worn over your nose and mouth, while in the hospital. Upon entry all non-NYGH staff members will be asked to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status.

All patients and visitors/ECPs must enter through the South lobby entrance and exit the hospital through the doors at the West exit. Visitor parking is available in the level parking garage; please do not park by Emergency.

Can I ever take off my mask?

An approved mask will be provided by the hospital on arrival, and must be worn at all times while in the hospital, except as outlined below or while eating/drinking or sleeping.

Guidelines and Exceptions:

Non-Approved Items:

- Food only permitted in accordance with guidelines below
- NO Vitamins or Health Food / over the counter remedies
- Please DO NOT keep expensive items like jewelry, large amounts of cash, etc. at the hospital
- Flowers and plants

PLEASE NOTE: The hospital does not take responsibility for any lost or stolen personal belongings.

- **Eating or Drinking:**
 - **You can bring in non-perishable food with you. Food from home or personal food ordered in cannot be stored in common unit fridges and cannot be heated in microwaves. There**

will not be any food permitted in our common pantry area at this time. Any food or snacks brought in, must be kept at the bedside with you

- Food deliveries (by family member or food delivery service) must be received by the support person and/or patient at the hospital door. Please perform hand hygiene upon entry to the unit after picking up any food deliveries.
- Reusable containers, if used, must be cleaned/managed by the patient or visitor(s).
- NYGH staff cannot deliver food to patients/visitors.
- All food must be eaten within the patient's room (no cafeteria seating). Common seating areas are for staff only.
- Please always practice good hand hygiene, including when entering/leaving the patient's room and before eating food.
- **Sleeping:**
 - If the visitor is planning to sleep in the Post Partum Unit for the duration of the stay, they must sleep at the patient's bedside, in the designated sleeper.
 - Visitors are not permitted to sleep in an empty patient bed or in any of the lounge areas.
 - Visitors can remove their mask during sleep, once the curtain has been drawn in the room.
 - Visitors requiring medical devices (i.e., CPAP) to ensure safe sleep, will not be permitted to use the device in hospital, and therefore are not permitted to stay overnight

**If your mask is wet or dirty – please ask the nurse for a replacement mask.
- **Washroom Facilities:**
 - Visitors are permitted to use the washroom in the patient room only when accompanying a patient that has been placed in a private room.
 - Visitors staying in semi-private rooms must use the visitor washroom available on the unit
- **Off unit/Out of hospital privileges:**
 - Visitors/ECPs in L&D and 2W accompanying patients being cared for under isolation precautions must stay in the room with the patient
 - Visitors/ECPs in L&D and 2W accompanying patients not under isolation precautions will be permitted to have off unit privileges and out of hospital privileges
 - Visitors of longer stay patients in L&D can enter and leave the hospital as required.
 - Visitors are encouraged to stay within the unit as much as possible.
- **Isolation**
 - Visitors accompanying patients in isolation must stay in the patient room at all times.
 - The patient and the visitor should also adhere to the required infection prevention and control practices as outlined by the nursing staff
 - Regular meal trays will be provided for visitors accompanying isolation patients
- **Car Seats**
 - Car seats may be brought into the hospital.
- We recommend frequent hand washing and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces (e.g. cell phones). If you require sanitization wipes to facilitate this while on the unit, please ask one of the nurses.
- We encourage everyone to stay in their rooms as much as possible during their stay.

Your cooperation is appreciated and will contribute to keeping our Maternal and Newborn Program areas safe for all patients, infants, staff and visitors.