

Date:	October 8, 2020
To:	All NH Staff
From:	Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine, Northern Lead Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director Diagnostic Services
Re:	Essential Visitors to Medical Imaging and Lab Appointments

The Northern Health Administrative Policy and Procedure: [Essential Visitor during Covid-19 Response \(Novel Coronavirus\)](#) provides clear guidance on current visitation restrictions. During the novel Coronavirus pandemic, visitors in all care areas are restricted to essential visitors only.

Essential visitor definition: Designated caregiver/support person – A person who is asymptomatic that may visit or remain with the patient throughout the admission.

The BC Ministry of Health indicates that essential visits include:

- Visits for compassionate care (e.g., imminent end of life and during critical illness);
- Visits considered paramount to patient/client care and well-being, such as providing medically necessary care, and emotional support during times of crisis or other violent/traumatic events.
- Visits by designated representatives for communication assistance for persons with hearing, visual, speech, cognitive, intellectual or memory impairments.

As per the NH Adoption of that BC WCH document in Essential Visitors Policy <https://ournh.northernhealth.ca/oursites/communications/OurNH%20Communications%20Documents/maternal-child-essential-visitor-guideline.pdf>

“... No support person will be permitted to attend scheduled maternity appointments except non stress tests and iron infusions. This excludes inductions and labour assessments in which the support person may attend.”

Note: An obstetric ultrasound is considered a scheduled maternity appointment.

What this means: To support the safety of patients, staff and family members, the Imaging and Laboratory Departments will only allow partners, family members or friends into the department with the scheduled patient if they qualify under the Essential Visitor protocol. This protocol will change when the BC Ministry of Health policy changes.

For further information or questions, please contact Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director of Diagnostic Services at Lisette.vienneau@northernhealth.ca