

Essential Visitors for Maternity, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Pediatrics during Covid-19 response (Novel coronavirus)

The BC Children's and Women's Hospital Policy for visitation has been adopted to provide guidance on essential visitors for these populations. These guidelines are important to protect/preserve the mother baby dyad, to ensure the provision of family-centred care, and to ensure the safety of our staff and patients.

Related Policies

- 2-5-1-100: [Essential Visitors During COVID-19 Response \(Novel coronavirus\)](#)
- 5-1-2-2-010: [Personal Protective Equipment](#)

Document Quick Links

- [COVID-19 Visiting Rules](#) (10-800-6003)
- [COVID-19 Essential Visitors](#) (10-800-6009)
- [Maternal Child Visiting Poster \(to be linked\)](#)

Designated caregiver(s)/support person(s)

A designated caregiver/support person is an asymptomatic adult who has met the screening criteria. Child visitors, such as siblings or friends, are not permitted.

The designated caregiver/support person in Maternity remains with the patient for the duration of their stay.

No support person will be permitted to attend scheduled Maternity appointments ex. Non Stress Tests and Iron Infusions. This excludes inductions and labour assessments in which the support person may attend.

The designated caregiver(s)/support person(s) in NICU and Pediatric/PSCU inpatient settings are allowed to visit or remain with the patient throughout the hospital stay and will be encouraged to minimize coming and going from the unit. They must pass screening upon presentation to the unit to be allowed to re-enter.

A COVID-19 positive mother will not be allowed to enter the NICU even if asymptomatic. In this instance an alternate asymptomatic designated caregiver/support person can be identified. Given the communicability of this virus, mothers who are COVID-19 positive and whose infants remain in the NICU or nursery (for any reason) should not visit until their symptoms have resolved and they are no longer considered infectious, based on local public health

policies. Mothers will be supported to pump and deliver expressed breast milk to the NICU when they are unable to be present.

If a designated caregiver/support person develops symptoms they will be asked to put on a mask and leave the hospital. They will be asked to isolate for at least 10 days from symptom onset or until symptoms have resolved (whichever is longer). At that time, a new asymptomatic designated caregiver/support person can be identified.

Designated caregiver(s)/support person(s) must be identified to staff and provided with a patient identification band.

When a change in support person is required, the band is removed, discarded and a new wrist band will be provided to the new support person.

Program/Department/Unit	# of designated asymptomatic Caregiver(s)/ Support Person(s)	Symptomatic Patient Droplet and contact precautions in place
UHNBC Maternal Child Units		
Pediatric Ambulatory Care Clinic	1	Restricted to room
Maternity Inpatient	1	Restricted to room
	NH approved doulas are considered part of patient's care team. Doula must be asymptomatic and cannot participate if patient is symptomatic.	
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)	2	Restricted to room
Pediatric Special Care Unit (PSCU) and Pediatric Inpatient Unit	2	Restricted to room

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REFERENCES

BC Women's and Children. (March 27, 2020). COVID-19 Visitor Restrictions. Retrieved April 9, 2020 from

<http://policyandorders.cw.bc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Infection%20Control/C-0506-11-60580%20COVID-19%20Visitor%20Restrictions.pdf>

BC Ministry of Health policy communique: Infection prevention and control for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). March 20, 2020.