

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Physicians and Staff

FROM: Senior Leadership Team

DATE: February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: **Caregiver / Visitor Policy - Updates**

Recent data indicates that the latest wave of COVID-19 driven by the Omicron variant has passed its peak in Ontario. As a result, we are able to slowly start to reassess and adjust some of our organizational COVID-19 policies and restrictions.

Following a regional approach, the 'COVID-19 Caregiver and Visitor Policy' will shift from the 'Full Pandemic Restrictions' category to the "Intermediate Pandemic Restrictions" category effective **Tuesday February 22nd, 2022.**

The following restrictions apply within the **Intermediate Pandemic Restrictions** category for caregivers/ visitors:

- Patients may designate two general visitors and two essential caregivers only.
- Only one general visitor may visit the patient per day.
- Essential caregivers (only one at a time) may be present at the bedside at the same time as the general visitor.
- Encourage staggered visits to avoid congestion on the units.
- General visitors may attend PRH only during regular hours of visitation (1130-2030).
- For outpatient visits, essential caregivers are permitted only and only if safety can be maintained.

All essential caregivers/ general visitors are expected to continue to comply with additional restrictions and guidelines when visiting PRH. This includes:

- Providing proof that they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, along with personal identification
- Completing and passing COVID-19 entrance screening
- Wearing a medical grade (PRH supplied) mask at all times in the hospital (including when in the patient's room), and additional PPE as indicated
- Practicing physical distancing at all times
- Not consuming food or drink at the patient's bedside

For conflict resolution and issues management related to the caregivers/ visitors, please follow the steps outlined in the “COVID-19 Caregiver and Visitor Policy”.

As clinical risk and community prevalence changes, PRH will continue to move between the various stages of caregiver/ visitor restrictions in order to manage visitors in a clear, fair and transparent manner. Movement between the categories will be determined by Senior Leadership Team (SLT) / Operations Committee, based on prevalence and feedback from community partners.

We appreciate your assistance in implementing this positive change for our patients and community.