

Guidance for SAH Enhanced Visitor Restrictions – Effective January 8, 2021

This table provides guidance to Sault Area Hospital (SAH) for visitor access. This document does not distinguish between family, friends or privately paid supports. The acceptability of a visitor should be determined with the patient at admission and individual patient circumstance.

This document recognizes the integral role that visitors play in providing physical, social, emotional and navigation of care. Visitor presence and participation has been shown to improve satisfaction and outcomes without additional risk. There is evidence to demonstrate that family presence improves the quality of life and results in better outcomes and the patient care experience. Please note, visitors who are exempt from wearing a mask will no longer be permitted for in-person visits. SAH will accommodate virtual visits in these circumstances. These visitors are asked to contact the appropriate nursing unit to arrange these virtual visits.

SAH remains committed to the safety of our community, our patients, and our people, by closely monitoring COVID-19 developments within our community and making decisions based on best practices.

Patient Type	Visitor Guidance
COVID-19 Suspect or COVID-19 Confirmed Patients	<p>No Visitors</p> <p>Exceptions may be made if the person provides support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a vulnerable patient (under the age of 18, cognitive impairment, significant developmental and/or intellectual disability, unable to effectively communicate) a patient at the end of life
Women & Children's Health Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Each maternity patient can have one support person during their hospital stay. A support person can stay for the duration of hospital admission. The support person must be the same person for hospital admission Pediatrics: 2 parents/guardian may stay with the patient during the day. One parent/guardian can stay at night NICU: 2 parents/guardians are allowed at the bedside at any time No other visitors allowed in the program
Life-Altering Event End of Life, Critically Ill Patients (including urgent surgical cases/trauma)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A discussion will occur with manager/supervisor or delegate of the area and next of kin/POA to determine the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> List of approved visitors Schedule of the approved visits 2 visitors allowed at the bedside at one time Visits are permitted at any time during day or night as per the agreed-upon plan. (ED Entrance to be used after hours)
Care Support for Long-Stay Patients	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A discussion will occur with the manager/supervisor or delegate of the area and the patient to determine the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Designated Care Support person Schedule of the approved visits The Care Support person must use the Main Entrance to access the facilities at the scheduled time,
Outpatient Clinics	<p>Each outpatient may bring one support person if the person provides support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a vulnerable patient (under the age of 18, cognitive impairment, significant developmental and/or intellectual disability, unable to effectively communicate) a patient at the end of life

Emergency Department	No Visitors Exceptions may be made if the person provides support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a vulnerable patient (under the age of 18, cognitive impairment, significant developmental and/or intellectual disability, unable to effectively communicate) • a patient experiencing a life-altering event (end of life, critically ill, trauma)
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Expectations for Designated Visitors:

- **Please be aware that visitors from outside of Algoma, those who have travelled outside of Algoma or those who have had close contact with an individual from outside of Algoma will not be permitted to visit for 14 days. Exceptions will only be made for compassionate reasons.**
- Visitors with illness symptoms will not be permitted to visit.
- Visitors must enter through the main lobby for their scheduled visit.
- Visitors must check in with the door screeners. In addition, all visitors must sign-in at the nursing station on the unit, in the event that contact tracing is required.
- Visitors must follow instructions given by staff; failure to follow instructions may result in a visitor being asked to leave the hospital.
- Visitors are reminded to maintain 2 metres or 6 feet of physical distance with the patient and others at all times.
- Visitors and patients are not permitted to wander on the unit or leave the unit; including accessing common areas of the hospital.
- Visitors must wear masks at all times while in hospital and must wash their hands when entering and leaving a patient's room. Please note, visitors who are exempt from wearing a mask will no longer be permitted for in-person visits. SAH will accommodate virtual visits in these circumstances. These visitors are asked to contact the appropriate nursing unit to arrange these virtual visits.
- The care team will work with patients to establish an appropriate visiting schedule for the Designated Care Support person for long-stay patients.

Note* Should assistance be required for making a decision regarding visitation, please consult with the department leadership team.