Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

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Notice to Patients and Care Partners:

Revised Visitor Restrictions – Essential Care Partners Only

The health and safety of patients and care partners, as well as staff, professional staff, and community members is our utmost priority.

To help prevent the risk or spread of COVID-19, **only essential care partners** will be permitted at the Hospital until further notice. This extends to people who may have been previously identified as Care Partners and given arm bands.

Essential Care Partners (ECP) have been defined so as to protect patients, family members and health care providers, while maintaining compassion in our acute care environment.

Essential Care Partners (ECP) are defined as:

- the care partner of a patient who is dying or very ill (for whom imminent death is anticipated or possible in the next 72 hours);
- a parent/guardian of an ill child or youth;
- the care partner of a patient undergoing surgery (up to 4:00pm the day following surgery); or
- the care partner of a woman giving birth.

Please note that the ability to allow ECPs will be determined on a day by day basis and may change without notice.

We understand that visitor restrictions can be difficult, and that friends and family wish to be kept informed. To help you stay connected, free telephone service will be available and virtual visitation options are being explored. Patients and ECPs are also encouraged to use their personal devices to access Tbaytel's free WiFi while on site at our Hospital.

To help friends and family stay informed and connected, please **provide your contact information to friends and family**, as appropriate, so that they may contact you directly for updates. This will help to **reduce high volumes of calls** to our Nursing Stations and Switchboard, and **support Hospital staff to focus on providing safe, quality care**.

These restrictions are in place for your safety and are in accordance with the recommendations of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Effective as of March 26, 2020