

## Supplemental to VCH Visitor Policy during COVID-19: Supporting Essential Visits for Patients in PUI units, COVID units and COVID Outbreak units

Updated: 18 December 2020

**Reference guidance:** VCH “Visiting our hospitals, clinics & care homes” <http://www.vch.ca/your-care/hospital-care/visiting-the-hospital> Accessed on 25 Nov 2020

### Preamble

This supplemental document provides additional information on how to safely conduct an essential visit for patients in PUI, COVID and COVID-outbreak units according to Infection Prevention and Control principles.

It does not provide guidance on what is defined as an essential visit. Please refer to the VCH guideline “Visiting our hospitals, clinics & care homes” <http://www.vch.ca/your-care/hospital-care/visiting-the-hospital>

### Prior to the Visit

- 1) **PUI and COVID units:** Please follow the essential visitation approval process documented in “Visiting our hospitals, clinics & care homes”.
- 2) **COVID Outbreak unit:** As the unit is closed to visitors, the MRP and the family will determine if the visit is essential.
- 3) **Once the visit is determined as essential, please notify the following parties:**
  - a. the Medical Health Officer (Only needed for COVID Outbreak units)
  - b. a designated senior Operations
  - c. a designated senior Medical leader and
  - d. Infection Prevention and Control
- 4) **Ensure that the following is discussed:**
  - a. Existing VCH visitor guidance
    - i. <http://www.vch.ca/your-care/hospital-care/visiting-the-hospital>
  - b. Time and Date of visit
  - c. Number of visitors and COVID status of the visitor(s)
  - d. Expectation of visitor(s) to follow institutional PPE and Hand Hygiene guidance
  - e. Instruct the visitor(s) to go directly to the unit and leave the facility directly after their visit and visitor(s) are discouraged from dwelling on the facility premises. Whenever possible, have an escort guide our visitor(s) to the entrance of the unit

### Entrance to Facility

- 1) Visitor is greeted and screened for COVID as per institutional policy
- 2) Visitor performs hand hygiene and dons medical mask as per institutional policy
- 3) Visitor heads to the PUI, COVID, or Outbreak unit.

### Entrance to Unit

- 4) Visitor(s) is/are greeted at unit entrance by a staff member.



- 5) Visitor(s) performs hand hygiene and dons eye protection (in addition to the medical mask already worn)
  - a. To be performed under the guidance and supervision of designated clinical staff. Competency of the visitor(s) of proper donning and doffing should be determined by the designated clinical staff.
- 6) Visitor(s) is/are guided to the patient room.
- 7) At the entrance of patient room, visitor(s) do hand hygiene, dons gown and gloves under guidance and supervision of designated clinical staff.
  - a. *Please see **Appendix A** below "Special PPE considerations regarding AGMPs" for guidance on use of medical mask or N95 respirator.*
- 8) Designated clinical staff to inform visitor(s) what areas can be accessed during the visit.

## Leaving the Unit and Exiting Facility

- 1) Visitor(s) notifies staff they are ready to leave.
- 2) Designated clinical staff must ensure doffing is done appropriately according to established healthcare work policies:
  - a. Removing gloves
  - b. Hand hygiene
  - c. Removing gown
  - d. Hand hygiene
  - e. Leave patient room
  - f. Hand Hygiene
  - g. Remove mask with attached visor or N95 respirator with face shield outside patient room
  - h. Hand Hygiene
  - i. Don new mask with attached visor
- 3) Designated clinical staff guides the visitor(s) to the unit exit.
- 4) Visitor(s) performs hand hygiene.
- 5) Designated clinical staff to instruct the visitor(s) to leave the facility directly after their visit
  - a. Visitors are discouraged from dwelling on the facility premises.
  - b. Whenever possible, have an escort guide our visitor(s) to the exit of the facility and encourage hand hygiene prior to leaving.



## Appendix A

### Special PPE considerations regarding AGMPs

#### **AGMP in use**

If the visitor(s) has come to visit a suspect/confirmed COVID positive patient while an AGMP is currently active, the recommendation is for each visitor to switch their medical mask to a N95 respirator and don a face shield.

#### **AGMP occurred less than 1 hour prior**

If the visitor(s) has come to visit a suspect/confirmed COVID positive patient that has had an AGMP active less than 1 hour prior to the visit, the recommendation is for each visitor to switch their medical mask to a N95 respirator and don a face shield.

#### **AGMP occurred greater than 1 hour prior or no AGMP used**

If the visitor(s) has come to visit a suspect/confirmed COVID positive patient that has had an AGMP greater than 1 hour prior to the visit, the recommendation is for each visitor to continue wearing their mask with attached visor.

