

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** December 04, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19 2020-203

---

**To:** Programs and Services funded by the Department of Families (including CFS Authorities and Agencies) and department staff

**Subject:** Hospital visitation

---

**Type:**  Policy

**Effective Date:** Immediately

---

This circular is intended to provide clarification around visitation in hospitals and other health facilities while the Pandemic Response System remains at Critical (red) province-wide.

In order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 within health care facilities, additional precautions have been in place since the beginning of the pandemic, including enhanced environmental cleaning and disinfecting practices, daily screening of staff and permitted visitors, adhering to provincial personal protective equipment requirements, and visitor restrictions appropriate to the level of COVID-19 activity.

Visitor restrictions are meant to balance the need to prevent the spread of COVID-19 with the importance of contact between patients and their loved ones.

Shared Health's document, [Inpatient Visitation Principles for hospital visitation during Provincial Response Level RED](#) outlines the general guidelines for in-patient visitation during periods of significant COVID-19 activity.

The guidelines include specific case-by-case exceptions for end of life care, children, labour and delivery and emergency situations (see pages three and four). The operational leadership of the facility is ultimately responsible for granting visitation in these circumstances.

Concerns about access to an inpatient should first be raised with the care team. If this does not resolve the issue, the hospital or facility's administration will work with families/caregivers/substitute decision makers to identify the most appropriate course of action to ensure the safety of the patient and others in the health care system, while also addressing the concerns raised.

Client relations teams throughout Manitoba are also available to help patients and their loved ones navigate health care. Contact information is available at:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/patient-care/patient-relations/>.

Manitobans' efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 and support the health and safety of others are critical to our ability to contain the virus. Visitor restrictions are continuously evaluated and adjusted based on the risk posed by COVID-19. Thank you for your continued commitment and cooperation.