

Subject: COVID-19 Update - May 20, 2020
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 5:14:59 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Ernie Baatz
To: Ernie Baatz
Attachments: image001.jpg

Revised Essential Visitors Policy released

Yesterday, Minister of Health Adrian Dix announced an updated policy on Essential Visitors when people with disabilities go to hospitals. The criteria for when a visitor is deemed essential have been expanded.

Family and Visitors

- Health authorities shall continue to restrict visitors to essential visits only.
- Health authority staff will determine if a visit is essential
- Essential visits can include, but are not limited to:
 - Visits for compassionate care, including critical illness, palliative care, hospice care, end of life, and Medical Assistance in Dying;
 - Visits paramount to the patient/client's physical care and mental well-being, including:
 - Assistance with feeding;
 - Assistance with mobility;
 - Assistance with personal care;
 - Communication assistance for persons with hearing, visual, speech, cognitive, intellectual or memory impairments;
 - Assistance by designated representatives for persons with disabilities, including provision of emotional support;
 - Visits for supported decision making; and
 - Visits for pediatric care, labour and delivery.
 - Existing registered volunteers providing the services described above.
 - Visits required to move belongings in or out of a client's room.
 - Police, correctional officers and peace officers accompanying a patient/client for security reasons.
- Essential visits can occur with a COVID+ patient or client.
- This family and visitor policy shall be clearly posted on the health authority's main public website.
- This family and visitor policy, and all related expectations, shall be communicated in plain language to visitors prior to arrival or upon arrival at the facility. This information shall be available in English and all languages commonly spoken in the local community.
- Family and visitors not deemed essential who wish to have an immediate review of the decision shall be provided the ability to speak with an administrator or administrator on call
- Family and visitors can request a formal review of a decision through the health authority Patient Care Quality Office (PCQO). If you have already been to the PCQO and are not satisfied, you can request a review of concerns from the Patient Care Quality Review Board contact@patientcarequalityreviewboard.ca 1-866-952-2448
- Orders from the Provincial Health Officer or a Medical Health Officer take precedent over this policy.
- Essential visits shall be limited to one visitor per patient/client within the facility at a time. A visitor who is a child may be accompanied by one parent, guardian or family member.

- All visitors shall be screened for signs and symptoms of illness, including COVID- 19, prior to every visit: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid- 19/about-covid-19/symptoms](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms)
- Visitors with signs or symptoms of illness, as well as those in self-isolation or quarantine in accordance with public health directives, shall not be permitted to visit.
- Visitors shall be instructed when to perform hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and safe physical distancing.
- Visitors shall be instructed on how to put on and remove any required PPE when visiting or caring for patients/clients who are on Droplet and Contact precautions. If the visitor is unable to adhere to appropriate precautions, the visitor shall be excluded from visiting.
- Visitors shall go directly to the patient/client they are visiting and exit the facility directly after their visit.
- Virtual visitation is strongly encouraged and should be supported where in-person visitation is not possible.

The full policy document is here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/covid-19-infection-prevention-control.pdf>

Thank you to the efforts of advocacy organizations to get this policy changed to increase the safety of people with disabilities who use the health care system.





who knows and loves them. ♥

THE PRESENCE OF FAMILY or a SUPPORT PERSON
can reduce anxiety, support patient safety, and
enable communication and decision making. ♥

We are not VISITORS—
We are essential partners in CARE. ♥

@drawing-change

Join the Disability Support Network for Free Sessions via Zoom

Join us for the Free Disability Support Network Sessions via Zoom. This week's Support Session shares seven additional best practices from other states. The afternoon training session will include actual practice for training and engaging participants in Zoom meetings.

Closed Captioning Provided

Support Meetings: Learn the Ten Best Practices for Supporting People with Disabilities. Interact with People from the US and Canada.

Thursday, 5/21/2020 - 12 noon ET, (11am CT, 10am MT, 9am PT)

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/v5MocOGqqzotUhHCCTAwT92w0RLvUGaKYg>

Or call in: +1 301 715 8592 US; +1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 275 782 517

Zoom Training: Learn the Five Best Practices to Engage Participants. Practice Your Facilitation Skills. Learn How to Run Breakout Rooms.

Thursday, 5/21/2020 - 4 p.m. ET (3pm CT, 2pm MT, 1pm PT)

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/vJlqc-yrqzwpibWfo81SO5BM_fx5ls70uw

Or call in: +1 301 715 8592 US; +1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 167-453-573

We want to reach as many people as possible. Please invite people to participate on listservs, webpages, Twitter, Facebook, and other social media.

The Disability Support Network is a volunteer effort to:

Support People: Provide support to each other, meet people from around the US and Canada. Learn best practices to support people with disabilities, families and professionals. We meet Thursday at 12 noon EDT.

Zoom Training: Learn the five proven practices to fully engage participants in virtual meetings. Learn to use Zoom more effectively to support people with disabilities, families, professionals, advocates, and direct support professionals. Learn how to host and facilitate meetings, use polls, chat box, round robins and breakout rooms. There will be time to answer tech questions. We meet Thursday at 4 p.m. EDT.

'See' you online.

Mark Friedman and David Wetherow
Disability Support Network

Let us know if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

www.spectrumsociety.org

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