

Social Visits and Essential Care Partners at St. Boniface Hospital

Social Visits FAQ

What is a Social Visit?

A social visit is a visit that occurs for purposes that are social in nature and can include individuals who are not involved in the care of the patient. This is separate from the Essential Care Partner visits.

Social visits may be possible for some patients depending on multiple factors, though not all patients will be able to partake in social visits.

When can Social Visits Occur, and for how long?

- Social visits can occur daily from 10:00am to 8:00 pm. **This is to be strictly enforced.** Visitors who arrive prior to 10:00 am will be turned away.
- Social Visits last for one hour

Where can Social Visits occur?

- Social Visits **do not** apply to outpatient visits, including emergency departments, diagnostic imaging, dialysis, or day procedures
- Social Visits are permitted only on Green Units with no Covid activity, and are subject to facility considerations such as available space, unit capacity, and assessment by the Care Team
- We do not encourage visits outside as we are unable to determine the vaccination status of the visitor. We are working on a process to see how we could facilitate such visits in the future.

What is required for a Social Visit to Occur at St. Boniface?

- The patient must be on a Green Unit (non-Covid Unit)
- The patient must have requested Social Visits to their Unit Staff and named their designated Social Visitors (maximum of four visitors per patient, only 2 allowed to visit at a time)
- The patient or family member of the patient must provide proof of vaccination (vaccination card or vaccination document for the patient) from either MB Health or from another province's health department prior to a visit occurring.
- The Patient must be fully vaccinated including the 14-day waiting period
- The Visitor must show proof of Vaccination including the 14-day waiting period
 - QR code (Manitoba immunization card)
 - Paper version of Manitoba immunization card
 - Online confirmation of vaccine record through the Shared Health Online Results Portal <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>
 - Printout of vaccine record available through the Shared Health Online Results Portal <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>

- All Visitors must pass the provincial screening questions and wear all applicable PPE including but not limited to medical masks

Who can attend a Social Visit?

- A maximum of two people can visit a patient at a time if the patient's area is large enough to fit 2 visitors
- Some patients may only be allowed one visitor at a time if that is what space allows
- One child under the age of 12 can visit along with one fully vaccinated adult visitor if 2 visitors are allowed

Can I attend a visit to a patient as soon as they are admitted?

- It takes time for the Unit staff and patient to work together to obtain vaccine information and assess operational considerations including the care program for the patient and space considerations
- The patient will be informed when they have been cleared by the Unit Staff to be able to have Social Visits

Why are visits not possible for some patients?

- Many factors need to be in place to enable safe visits for hospital patients
 - Vaccine history needs to be verified
 - Physical space needs to be available
 - The Care team will consider the patient's ability to participate safely in visits

Who can I contact if I have questions about the Social Visitor program?

- Information is contained on the St. Boniface Hospital website at <https://stbonifacehospital.ca/visitors/>
- Or call the hospital directly at 204-233-8563 or Patient Inquiry at 204-237-2193

Essential Care Partner FAQ

Do essential care partners need to provide vaccination proof?

- Yes. Beginning Nov. 22, 2021, essential care partners will be asked to provide proof of immunization for in-person visits. In situations where an inpatient's identified essential care partner is not fully vaccinated, AND an alternate fully vaccinated essential care partner is not available, case-by-case consideration related to permitted access of the essential care partner may occur.
- In these situations, the clinical judgement of the care team should indicate that an essential care partner's in-person presence is necessary and that an alternate, fully-vaccinated, essential care partner is not available.

Do fully vaccinated general visitors and essential care partners need to wear Personal Protective Equipment?

- Yes. General visitors and essential care partners will continue to be provided with appropriate PPE to be worn for the duration of their visit. This is not a change from current practice.
- General visitors must maintain physical distancing during their visits. They will not be required to wear eye protection due to the maintained physical distancing.
- Essential care partners permitted to visit ORANGE and RED zones may be required to wear additional PPE.

Does this change apply to essential care partners accompanying pediatric (children) or neonatal patients?

- No. Pediatrics Parents/guardians are the substitute decision-makers for their children and frequently provide essential support.
- Proof of full vaccination is not a requirement for access of designated parent/guardian but vaccination status may be requested upon entry as part of the screening process and for contact tracing purposes, if required. Screening and use of appropriate PPE and all other infection prevention and control protocols remain requirements.

Does this change apply to essential care partners accompanying a woman in labour/delivery/postpartum?

- No. Essential care partner access will continue to be supported in circumstances involving labor and delivery/postpartum.
- Proof of full vaccination is not a requirement for access of essential care partner(s) in these situations but vaccination status may be requested upon entry as part of the screening process and for contact tracing purposes, if required. Screening and use of appropriate PPE and all other infection prevention and control protocols remain requirements.