

Frequently Asked Questions General Visitation to Hospitals (Patient & Family) (Latest updates will appear in blue)

What does fully immunized mean?

Individuals are considered fully immunized if they have received both doses (any combination) of an approved two dose COVID-19 vaccine (AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna), OR a single dose of an approved single dose COVID-19 vaccine (Janssen/Johnson & Johnson) with more than 14 days having passed since the second dose (or approved sole dose) was received.

What is a secure immunization card?

Fully immunized Manitobans now have access to a secure immunization card.

To be eligible to receive an immunization card, Manitobans must:

- have a Manitoba health card;
- be fully immunized

Manitobans are able to find and print their vaccine records through the Shared Health Online Results Portal <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>. The new immunization card is available for application at <https://immunizationcard.manitoba.ca/>.

What does this mean for visitation to hospitals?

Fully immunized Manitobans will now be able to visit fully immunized **inpatients in Green Zones only** for social visits indoors.

This means visiting a patient in the patient's room as long as physical distancing can be maintained and all patients present are fully vaccinated (if a shared room).

If another patient in a shared room has not been fully immunized, another location for the general visitor and the fully vaccinated patient may be found if possible.

What about visits to Orange and Red Zone patients?

Essential care partner access to **ORANGE** and **RED** zone patients should continue to occur virtually wherever possible. In-person visitation will be considered and facilitated if it is the only option to meet the patient's needs.

General visitor access to orange and red zone patients is not permitted, regardless of the vaccination status of the visitor.

Does this mean essential care partners no longer need to be identified?

No, this change is to permit expanded social visitation. Essential care partners continue to play an important role in the care and wellbeing of patients in hospital.

Essential care partners will not be required to show proof of immunization.

Why is there a difference in how general visitors and essential care partners are treated?

These changes are intended to increase patient access to more socialization and visits. Essential care partners have been an important support to patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and protocols to support their safe access to facilities are established.

There is no change to the access for essential care partners related to this change.

Does my visit need to be scheduled?

Visits should occur during regular visiting hours. Please speak to the care team on the unit to establish the appropriate time to visit.

Are general visitors from other Canadian provinces able to visit? Are they required to isolate?

Fully vaccinated individuals, upon providing proof that they have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, including a second dose more than 14 days before their planned visit, are able to visit, even if they have travelled within Canada in the past 14 days.

What proof is acceptable?

Multiple options will be acceptable. Check with the location that you will be visiting to confirm their preferred method of confirmation.

Multiple options are acceptable. Manitobans can find and print their vaccine records through the Shared Health Online Results Portal <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>. The new immunization card is available for application at <https://immunizationcard.manitoba.ca>.

Documentation may include any one of the following:

- Confirmation via QR code (Manitoba immunization card);
- Paper copy of Manitoba immunization card;
- Online confirmation of vaccine record through the Shared Health Online Results Portal <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>
- Printed copy of vaccine record available through the Shared Health Online Results Portal <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>

Visitors from other areas in Canada will be asked to provide proof of vaccination from their home jurisdiction.

What will you do with my information?

Your personal health information will remain confidential and secure. It is not stored or recorded by the facility. Names and contact information will continue to be recorded for the purposes of

contact tracing should the need arise. This information is kept for 30 days. The information retained does not include immunization status.

Do children have to provide proof of vaccination to visit?

Children between the ages of 12-18 must provide proof of vaccination but will not be required to produce photo identification. Those under the age of 12, must pass screening and can visit with a fully vaccinated adult.

My loved one (patient) has medical or religious reasons for not being vaccinated. Are there exceptions so that I can visit?

At this time, patients who have not been fully vaccinated are not able to welcome additional general visitors in their room.

Do I need to wear Personal Protective Equipment?

Yes. General visitors will continue to be provided with a procedure mask 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.

Can more than one General Visitor visit at one time?

Yes, providing physical distancing between the visitors and the patient can be maintained. Visitors from the same household do not need to physically distance from one another but must maintain physical distancing from the patient.

If a room is not large enough for physical distancing to be maintained, the facility will determine if another location can be accommodated for the visit. This consideration will also include an assessment whether it is safe to move the patient to another location.

Does this change End of Life visitation?

No. General visitors are permitted in end of life situations, according to the current pandemic response level.

However there have been recent changes to end of life visitation, as below:

During the **estimated last month of life**, a maximum of **four essential care partners** may be identified to visit.

Two persons may attend within a 24-hour time frame (both may attend at the same time provided physical distancing requirements can be maintained).

Respecting every situation is unique, additional essential care partners (beyond the maximum of four) is to be managed on a case-by-case basis in collaboration with site leadership and IP&C.

When considering exceptions to these guidelines and consideration of visitors beyond the maximum of four essential care partners, vaccination status of visitors should be considered. Of note, **fully immunized** individuals (those who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and whose second dose was more than 14 days ago) who are asymptomatic have the lowest risk of acquiring and passing on a COVID illness.