

# Visiting Northern Health

## COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Visitor restrictions

In response to the current increase in COVID-19 in the northern corridor, visitor restrictions are in place across Northern Health.

Visitors are currently not permitted to enter Northern Health at all campuses and all areas including the emergency department.

The exceptions to this are as follows:

### **Birth Suite/Pregnancy Assessment Unit (including antenatal mothers)**

- One partner or support person
- During labor and birth, the support person can be present at any time

### **Maternity Ward (Ward 11)**

- After birth, while in the Maternity Ward, the partner/support person (one only) can visit for two hours between the hours of 4 pm – 8 pm.

### **Children's Unit and Neonatal Unit**

- Parents, guardians and carers may visit at all times – one parent/guardian at a time
- Visits are not time-limited
- No siblings
- One carer only to stay overnight

### **Palliative Care**

- Patients nearing end of life in any part of the health-service including residential-care are allowed two visitors at a time, at any time of day
- If under 16, only the children and grandchildren of the patient are allowed and must be under the direct supervision of an adult at all times

### **Caregiver**

- A person who is the primary caregiver to a person with a disability may visit at all times
- One carer only

### **Compassionate grounds**

- In special circumstances, if a patient is at the end of their life or there is a sudden deterioration in a patient's condition, the nurse in charge (or other designated hospital position) may allow an exemption on compassionate grounds for essential visitors only.
- Please note that if a visitor is under quarantine or self-isolation at the time of the patient's dying, they will not be permitted to visit - unless approved by the Victorian Chief Health Officer.

We understand these restrictions may cause disappointment and may be challenging for some patients and their loved ones. The health and safety of our patients, visitors and staff is our highest priority and these restrictions are in place to protect them. Alternatives to visiting such as phone calls and video chat are available where possible.

Thank you for your understanding.