

Stevenson Memorial Hospital tightens visitor restrictions

In response to the rising number of cases of COVID-19 and the risks associated with the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, Stevenson Memorial Hospital (SMH) is tightening visitor restrictions at the facility.

The hospital is moving back to Phase 2 of its visitor policy.

That policy states that no visitors are permitted for patient in the emergency department and out-patient clinics unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Those circumstances include and ill newborn, or youth or child age 18 and under. They also include patients with dementia or cognitive impairment or a palliative patient.

In-patients can have one designated visitor per day, for a maximum of one hour. The visitor must remain the same person each day.

Visiting can take place between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Extenuating circumstances will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

Surgical patients will be allowed one designated support person to receive discharge instructions and help transition out of the hospital.

In the obstetrics department, patients in labour and delivery are allowed on support person.

All visitors must provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination along with personal ID and are required to pass COVID-19 screening before visiting a patient.

Visitors will be required to wear medical-grade masks, no cloth masks, up entry to the hospital, which will be provided, and must wash their hands before entering and after leaving a patient's room.

“We understand how important family members and loved ones are to the patient experience and their care journey, but we have to be mindful of the risks associated with this new variant and take extra precaution to ensure our facility remains as safe as possible,” said Jody Levac, President and CEO, SMH. “We thank our community members and families for their cooperation and understanding at this challenging time, especially during the holiday season.”

Visiting restrictions will remain in place for COVID-19 positive cases and suspected patients.

By Brian Lockhart Local Journalism Initiative Reporter