

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) Updates Visitor Restrictions

Kenora, ON, June 10, 2021

As Ontario moves to step one on the roadmap to reopening on June 11, 2021, it is important to evaluate the pandemic visitation restrictions and consider what is most appropriate for patient and community safety, while balancing the mental, physical, and spiritual needs of patients for their quality of life.

LWDH visitor restrictions have been revised in consultation with patient, staff, and manager feedback and in consideration of visitor restriction guidance documentation from the Ontario government and by other organizations including Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Effective June 11, 2021, one (1) designated visitor will be identified by each admitted patient and allowed to visit. Visiting hours will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Designated visitors are those deemed essential to the emotional wellbeing, health, and quality of life of loved ones. In most cases, visitors should be a close family member and/or friend who have a clearly established pattern of involvement in providing care and support to the patient.

All designated visitors must bring and wear a mask upon entering the hospital and throughout their time in the hospital. Visitors will be screened at the hospital's Main Lobby upon entry (please note, this is NOT the emergency entrance). Visitors will identify which patient they are going to see and be provided a visitor sticker to be worn while in the building. All visits will take place in the patient's room. Visitors are reminded to maintain physical distancing while in the hospital and are required to check out upon exit and return their visitor sticker.

Visitor restrictions remain in place in the Emergency Department. Exceptions will be parents/guardians of minor children being treated. Any other exceptions to be determined by the unit manager or Nursing Supervisor on duty.

COVID-19 Screening on Entering the Hospital

Screening for COVID-19 is taking place for anyone working or coming into the hospital. Screening follows Ministry of Health guidelines and will involve answering questions related to COVID-19 symptoms, temperature check, as well as recent travel history. All people will be screened before being allowed in. Entrance to the hospital will be denied to anyone who fails the screening tool.

Stay Safe, Stay Well

To protect yourself and others from illness-causing germs, please ensure you follow these everyday precautions:

- **Stay home if you are sick.**
- Practice physical distancing.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Practice proper respiratory etiquette (covering your nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are ill.
- Seek medical care if required and disclose any recent travel history.

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