



# HÔTEL-DIEU GRACE HEALTHCARE

ESTD 1888

July 4, 2022

Today we are writing to you with an update on a number of COVID-19 precautions at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare (HDGH). Throughout the course of the pandemic, HDGH has remained diligent in our efforts to ensure our hospital remains a safe place for our patients and clients to receive care and for our staff and physicians to work.

Our community and organization are now at a low-risk period in the pandemic. This means that we can safely begin to reduce and remove some COVID-19 precautions that we put in place previously. This letter outlines these changes.

## **VISITOR VACCINE/TEST RESULT PROOF**

First, as a result of our current low-risk state and to enhance the family presence for our patients and clients, effective July 5<sup>th</sup>, HDGH's screening process for visitors and Designated Care Partners (DCPs) will be shifting to symptom-checking; this means that visitors and DCPs will no longer be required to show proof of vaccine and/or proof of negative COVID-19 test result to enter an HDGH building. Visitors will no longer be required to fill out the paper screening tool.

**Visitors and DCPs must still stop at our screening desks before entering and must not have any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or have had COVID-19 themselves in the past 10 days or have been in close contact with someone positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days, in order to pass screening. Visitors will be asked if they have any of in the last 10 days:**

- Fever/chills
- New/worse cough
- New/worse shortness of breath
- Decrease/loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Runny nose/nasal congestion without known cause, as well as nasal congestion without other known cause
- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Unexplained fatigue or malaise, muscle aches or joint pain, abdominal pain
- Tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 10 days
- Exposure to a COVID-19 positive case in the previous 10 days (without a mask)
- Have been told to quarantine by a physician, PHAC, CBSA or the Public Health unit

## **ITEM DROP OFF**

With HDGH's current visitation policy allowing anyone who meets our screening requirements to visit our patients and clients, we will no longer be accepting item drop-offs at the screening desk.

Those wishing to bring items in for patients may bring items directly to patient rooms, pending they have passed screening.

Those wishing to bring items in for patients in TNI must bring the items to the TNI Security Desk.

### **PPE CHANGES**

To ensure the health and safety of our patients/clients, healthcare team, and our visitors, masks will still be required throughout each HDGH building. However, effective July 5<sup>th</sup>, visitors and DCPs will no longer be required to wear eye protection when visiting with patients. However, please observe any precaution signage posted outside of your loved one's room before each visit. If there is signage outside your loved one's room, you must follow the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements posted on this signage before entering. If you need assistance with any PPE, please ask any member of the healthcare team before entering your loved one's room.

### **DAY PASSES**

To limit potential for exposure, throughout the onset of the pandemic, HDGH has restricted day passes to those patients/clients attending appointments. We know that day passes for compassionate reasons and for discharge planning are important for the care journey of our patients and clients.

We are pleased to be able to once again allow day passes to be issued for our patients and clients on a case-by-case basis. Those wishing to receive a day pass may discuss the option with their care team. Patients/clients will be assessed by the care team and our Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPAC) prior to being issued the pass. Please know that there may be instances where a request for a day pass may be declined due to health, safety, or IPAC concerns.

Patients or clients returning from day passes will be assessed by our IPAC team for next steps.

### **PET VISITATION**

We know that for some, family may extend beyond humans. Patients and clients may request that their pet be brought in for a visit. All rules and processes outlined in our Pet Visitation Policy must be followed for such visits. Please note that only dogs are permitted as part of our pet visitation. If you are interested in pet visitation, please talk to a member of your healthcare team.

HDGH continues to monitor and assess our organization and community state as it relates to COVID-19. At any time, HDGH reserves the right to right to re-implement measures to protect patients, staff and the community.

For questions on any of these updates, please reach in to a member of your healthcare team or to our Patient Advocate by phone at 519-257-5111 extension 74404 or by email at [patient.advocate@hdgh.org](mailto:patient.advocate@hdgh.org).

Thank you,  
Bill Marra  
HDGH President and CEO