

**Mission >>** As a strong and progressive community hospital, we commit to providing high quality and compassionate care in a sustainable manner.

**Vision >>** A trusted community hospital providing exemplary care to you and those you love.

For Immediate Release

## ESHC to Ease Visitor Restrictions Effective February 11

February 11, 2022

ESSEX COUNTY – Essential Visitors and Designated Caregivers will return to Erie Shores HealthCare.

Starting at 8:00 am on Friday, February 11, 2022, ESHC will allow **ONE** designated caregiver identified by the patient to visit COVID negative inpatients between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm daily. In addition, COVID negative patients in the Emergency Department will also be permitted **ONE** Designated Caregiver. This replaces the “no visitor” policy implemented at ESHC on December 30, 2021, at the height of the Omicron wave.

For palliative or end-of-life patients, an **UNLIMITED** number of visitors will be permitted; however, only **TWO** may be at the patient’s bedside at any given time.

Essential Visitors or Designated Caregivers who are visiting inpatients, palliative care/end-of-life patients, or patients in the Emergency Department:

1. Must be age 18 or older;
2. Must provide documented proof of their COVID-19 vaccination, with 14 days having passed since the second dose, and;
3. Must test negative on a hospital-administered rapid antigen test.

We are not able to allow essential caregivers to visit patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

Not all situations are the same, and Erie Shores HealthCare understands that. The hospital will give special visiting considerations for ONE designated support person who is:

- Visiting a woman in labour
- A parent/guardian of an ill newborn, youth or child

- A support person for a patient with dementia/cognitive impairment with management approval

Visitors will be allowed for COVID-19 negative patients in the ICU in some specific circumstances.

Family members who have a patient in our care that isn't permitted visitors can expect to be contacted by a Patient-Family Liaison to book a virtual visit.

More specific details can be found on our website's ESHC COVID-19 Visitor page:  
<https://www.erieshoreshealthcare.ca/visitorhours>.

All essential caregivers must wear a medical-grade mask and eye protection at ALL times and in all hospital areas. If essential caregivers do not have one, they will be provided with a medical-grade mask at the entrance. Cloth masks by themselves will not be allowed. All essential caregivers are required to wear a face shield and a mask while visiting a patient. Face shields will be provided to essential caregivers on entry to the hospital.

#### **ABOUT ERIE SHORES HEALTHCARE**

Erie Shores HealthCare, located in Leamington, Ontario, cares for the residents of Essex County. With over 500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Erie Shores provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied and ambulatory care services. For more information about Erie Shores HealthCare, visit [www.erieshoreshealthcare.ca](http://www.erieshoreshealthcare.ca) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Kevin Black

Communications and Public Affairs Specialist

Erie Shores HealthCare

519-819-8943 | [kevin.black@eshc.org](mailto:kevin.black@eshc.org)