



FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
December 2, 2021

In keeping with the Government of Canada's recently announced adjustments to Canada's border and travel measures, Riverside Health Care (RHC) has likewise adjusted its Covid-19 visitation requirements for Long Term Care and Acute Care visiting.

Effective immediately anyone presenting to a RHC site will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Fully vaccinated Care Partners and Visitors will be allowed entry.

Partial or unvaccinated Care Partners/ Visitors (5 years and older), will be required to have a negative rapid antigen test prior to visiting.

The following exceptions will apply to those visiting:

- A patient/resident who is palliative (dying or very ill for whom imminent death is anticipated)
- Women giving birth and post-partum (Spouse/partner may visit at any time)
- Patients who are critically ill or unstable in the Intermediate Care
- All patients in the Emergency Department

If you are partial or unvaccinated and planning to visit one of our sites, please call the COVID-19 Assessment Centre in advance to arrange an appointment for your rapid antigen test. In Fort Frances call 274-3261 ext 4913 and Rainy River call 274-3261 ext 6500.

The World Health Organization designated the B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus as a Variant of Concern. As a result, the Government of Canada announced on November 30, 2021, that all travellers who have been in 10 identified countries in Africa (South Africa, Eswatini, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Egypt, Nigeria and Malawi) in the 14 days before travelling to Canada will be subject to enhanced testing, screening, and quarantine measures. For up-to-date information please check: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>.

Anyone who has travelled to these countries (and any other country identified by the federal government), **REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS**, is not permitted to enter a RHC facility until they are released from quarantine by the federal government. This includes people intending to visit palliative residents.

We thank you for your continued support and commitment to protecting the health and safety of those in our care, their loved ones, our team members and the community.

Henry Gauthier
President & Chief Executive Officer
Riverside Health Care

Julie Loveday
Executive Vice President, Clinical Services & CNE
Riverside Health Care

Reference: Karl Gunderson – Policy Coordinator & Interim Communications, 807-274-3261 ext. 4634

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