

Information about the Essential Care Partner (ECP) Vaccination Policy

What is an Essential Care Partner?

An Essential Care Partner (ECP) is a support person considered essential to the safety and well-being of a patient while they are inside the hospital.

Limits are currently in place on how many ECPs or other visitors can enter to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. All ECPs and visitors are screened for COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors, and must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Please speak with your care team about the specific access limits for your care area, or visit www.uhn.ca/COVID19.

What does “fully vaccinated” mean?

Fully vaccinated means that you have received **all doses** of a Health Canada-approved vaccine series. For most vaccines, this is at least 2 doses. It is recommended that you get additional doses as you become eligible to do so.

Your 2nd dose must have been **at least 14 days ago**.

ECPs are important members of a patient’s care team. To reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in UHN hospitals, the policies requiring masks for everyone and vaccination for ECPs, staff, students and volunteers remain in effect, despite the lifting of vaccine requirements in other public spaces.

Will there be any exceptions to the ECP Vaccination Policy?

Exceptions to the ECP Vaccination Policy will only be made in rare, special circumstances. Please contact the manager of the unit or clinic the patient is receiving care at **before** coming to the hospital to discuss your situation.

If approved, a negative COVID-19 test result (PCR test within last 48 hours or rapid antigen test on the day of the visit) will be required. Rapid antigen tests can be accessed in the community at many pharmacies and grocery stores.

If denied, and you wish to appeal the decision, an appeal panel reviews the case through a formal process and makes a decision. Please ask the patient's care team for an exemption form that can be submitted to [UHN Patient Relations](#).

Where can I learn more about COVID-19 policies at UHN?

Visit www.uhn.ca/COVID19 or speak with your health care team. You can also call the main line for the hospital you are receiving care at and they can connect you to the clinic or unit:

- Princess Margaret: 416 946 4559
- Toronto General: 416 340 4800
- Toronto Western: 416 603 2581
- Toronto Rehab: 416 597 3422