

# 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.

### March 2023 update:

Restrictions on ECP and visitor access are gradually being lifted as cases of COVID-19 in the community go down.

**The ECP Vaccination Policy remains in effect.** All Essential Care Partners, other visitors and staff 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](http://www.uhn.ca/COVID19).

## What does “fully vaccinated” mean?

Fully vaccinated means that you have received **at least 2 doses** of a Health Canada-approved vaccine series. It is recommended that you get additional booster doses as they become available. Your 2nd dose must have been **at least 14 days ago**.

## 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](http://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