

May 2, 2022

Dear Essential Care Partner,

As an Essential Care Partner, we view you as part of our transplant team! We want to be sure you are aware of the following safety measures to keep your loved one and all our transplant patients as safe as possible when you visit the unit.

Why are extra precautions needed around people who have had a transplant?

- People who have had transplants are more vulnerable to infection and serious illness than the general population. A COVID infection could result in very severe illness or even death.
- Transplant patients take immunosuppressant medications. This makes it harder for them to fight off infections like COVID-19, and may mean their vaccines do not work as well.
- Treatment options using medications for people who have had transplants are limited due to drug interactions with other medications they must take.
- In addition to making current patients sick, a COVID-19 outbreak on a transplant unit could lead to the unit closing, causing delays in care for other patients.

What can I do to keep my loved one and others on the unit safe while visiting?

- 1. Get all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.** You must have received at least 2 doses of a Health Canada-approved vaccine to visit. We strongly encourage you to receive a third dose, and fourth dose when eligible to do so.
- 2. Stay home if you are sick OR have been exposed to COVID-19.** Even if you have not tested positive, **DO NOT** come to the hospital if you have a **cough, fever, shortness of breath, or diarrhea.**
- 3. Wear your mask at all times inside the hospital, including inside patient rooms, hallways, washrooms and other common areas.** If you need to eat or drink, please go to the food court on the Ground (G) Floor or ask about other designated areas where you can safely remove your mask.
- 4. For added safety, take a rapid antigen test (RAT) before coming to the hospital.** Although proof of a negative test result is not required to visit, if you have access to do one, please do so. You can [get a free rapid test kit](#) at many pharmacies or grocery stores. Please continue to follow other precautions, even if you have a negative test.

Thank you for helping to keep patients safe. These measures can save lives on our transplant unit. **If you have questions, please ask any of our team members or the unit manager.**

- Joanne Zee, Senior Clinical Director, Ajmera Transplant Centre