

New guidelines for visiting at acute care and long-term care facilities are in effect starting July 7th

Each patient/resident will be allowed to name two family members/support persons who can come to visit them. For most units this will mean one visitor at a time, and only one in the building at a time. For patients in maternity and child birth units, two visitors may be present with physical distancing. For patients in intensive care (for adult, neo-natal and pediatric), in palliative care, or at high risk for loss of life, two visitors may be present with physical distancing and additional visitors may be named to take turns visiting. This is good news for the emotional and spiritual health of patients and residents.

Another piece of good news is that this set of guidelines specifically names that religious/spiritual care providers (clergy and chaplains) are considered an extension of the care team and can be present in addition to designated family member/support persons with physical distancing being maintained. This restores our ability to provide spiritual care to patients and family at the same time.

Congregational volunteer visitors will not be able to visit in facilities until the guidelines change again, but perhaps they can play a role in maintaining contact through phone calls, Well Wishes or on-line visits.

For patients and families in congregations outside Regina, and in congregations whose clergy will be on summer holiday, I encourage you to contact me directly (Lorna King 1-306-551-7755) or request the nursing staff to be in touch. For clergy in and around Regina, you will be able to visit patients in acute care and residents in long-term care again.

Friends, our province has been managing the CoVid19 pandemic well. The work we have all been doing to maintain physical distance, to wear masks when we cannot maintain distance, to keep up our hand hygiene routines and to limit the size of our social bubbles is showing up in the reduced levels of new infections. Thank you for your part in this work. So, friends, keep washing your hands and wearing your masks and keeping physical distance to protect the most vulnerable among us. Don't visit hospitals or long-term care facilities if you are not feeling well. Blessings.