



*In this document, the term patient is inclusive of patient, resident and client.

Highlights:

1. Patients suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 can have their designated family or support person present.
2. It is recommended that the clinical team review and follow these guidelines to ensure this can be done as safely as possible (consult local Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) with any questions regarding these guidelines).

Guidelines:

1. Family/support person currently under self-isolation as per the [Public Health Order](#) are not permitted to participate in Family Presence.
2. Family/support person shall perform hand hygiene with alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) or soap and water when:
 - entering the facility
 - entering the patient's room
 - leaving the patient's room
 - leaving the facility
 - any time hands become soiled
3. Family/support person should follow the Personal Protect Equipment (PPE) requirements as indicated in CV-19 [G0051Masking and PPE Guidelines for Family Member and Support Person](#). This includes wearing a face mask on entry to and while in the facility and wearing a gown and eye protection (face shield or non-vented goggles) when in the patient room and unable to maintain 2 metre physical distancing.
4. Family/support person should be instructed how to [put on](#) and [remove](#) their PPE properly to avoid contaminating themselves and possibly becoming ill.
5. Family/support person who are non-compliant with wearing PPE (e.g., mask and eye protection) will be considered a close contact and may be required to self-isolate for 14 days after the visit. In this situation,
 - Unit staff will need to report contact to Public Health (PH)/MHO so MHO can assess if self-isolation is required.
 - Family/support person should be advised to call 811 if they develop any symptoms, have any questions or wish to arrange for COVID-19 testing.
6. Family/support person are discouraged from visiting when an [aerosol generating medical procedure \(AGMP\)](#) is being performed and until the procedure is complete and the [aerosolize settle time](#) has been achieved. This is because family members cannot be properly fit tested for an N95 respirator.

Note: In extremely exceptional circumstances (i.e. end of life extubating) a family member may be permitted to be present during an AGMP only after consultation with the MHO and IPAC. This consultation should include a decision as to the risk of exposure (i.e. close or non-close contact). If permitted, unit staff should discuss the risk exposure and the required action (self-monitoring or self-isolating) with the family member/support person. In addition,

- Family/support person must wear an N95 respirator (seal check performed), gown, eye protection
- If a family member/support person is present during an AGMP, they may not be allowed back as part of family presence until the 14 day self-isolation period is over and they are not showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- Family member/support person should be advised to call 811 if they develop any symptoms, have any questions, or wish to arrange for COVID-19 testing