



### Update: Family Presence Level 2 Updates Approved for Acute Care Sites (Directive applies to SHA Facilities, homes, and Affiliate Organizations)

EOC has approved a change to the SHA Levels of Family Presence during COVID-19 for Acute Care Sites. Level 2 Family Presence was previously described as “compassionate care reasons only”.

**Beginning Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, all inpatients and outpatients can designate one essential family member/support person to support care and/or quality of life needs.** Circumstances where more than one individual can be designated include end of life/palliative care, critical care, and maternal/children’s services.

Essential family member/support person may use a temporary replacement as required (i.e. for caregiver burnout) especially for those supporting extended care inpatients.

#### Key Details for Level 2 Family Presence:

1. The current level of visitor restrictions in your area(s) remains in effect (see the [online dashboard](#) for up-to-date information).
2. All inpatients and outpatients in acute care sites can designate **one** essential family member/support person to support care and/or quality of life needs.
  - Circumstances where more than one individual can be designated include end of life/palliative care, critical care, and maternal/children’s services.
3. **Timing, frequency, and duration of family presence** to be determined in collaboration with the patient and essential family/support person based on patient needs and considerations of care team/service area.
4. Essential family members/supports will be required to wear a medical grade mask and any additional PPE as required, complete screening, practice proper hand hygiene, and limit movement within the facility.
5. There may be **exceptional situations** or circumstances within facilities where family presence is temporarily suspended due to operational constraints or space limitations not permitting physical distancing from other patients, staff and essential family/support persons. In these situations, care teams will work together with families to support connections and provide updated information on care. Virtual options can also be provided.

#### Resources:

- Huddle Talk – Level 2 Family Presence
- One-page reference guide – Level 2 Family Presence Updates
- Information sheet for essential family members/support people coming into SHA sites
- Poster – Commitment to Family Presence

If you have specific questions about your care area please connect with your leadership or contact [pfcc@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:pfcc@saskhealthauthority.ca).

Note: Long Term Care Family Presence remains at compassionate care visiting. Any future change to long-term care will require a change in the [Public Health Order](#).





## Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the challenges you've experienced related to family presence during COVID-19? What strategies can we put in place to address these challenges? Who can help?
2. How can we find creative ways to support family presence this holiday season? What processes do we have in place? What might need to be developed?
3. FAQs are available at [Saskatchewan.ca/covid19](https://saskatchewan.ca/covid19).

**Questions and Feedback can be forwarded to:** [pfcc@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:pfcc@saskhealthauthority.ca)

