

Essential Caregivers at STEGH Frequently Asked Questions



My family member is a patient at STEGH. Can I come to visit them?

If you are fully vaccinated (two complete doses administered at least 14 days ago), you maybe permitted to visit as long as you have been pre-approved as an essential caregiver. STEGH is allowing limited visitation to essential caregivers only. Please contact the patient and their health care team to discuss. *Please do not show up at the hospital without a pre-arranged appointment to visit*.



*An essential caregiver is an individual who is necessary for the safety and well-being of a patient while they are inside the hospital and who is essential for a patient who would otherwise be at risk if the essential caregiver were not present. Essential caregivers do not have to be living with the patient or biologically related to the patient. Essential caregivers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and must be 18 years of age.



There are a number of family members who want to visit a patient. Can we all come together to visit?

No** – but a family member may be permitted as an essential caregiver. Please contact the patient and their health care team to discuss. To keep all patients and staff safe, STEGH is limiting the total number of people in the hospital on both the inpatient and outpatient units. *Please do not show up at the hospital without a pre-arranged appointment to visit.*

**For patients who are palliative or critically ill, more than one person may be able to be with the patient at a time. Please speak with the patient's care team to discuss how this can be arranged.



What are the requirements for coming to visit a patient or accompanying a patient to an appointment?

Essential caregivers must:

- Have a pre-arranged appointment
- Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Pass the screening at the entrance
- Perform hand hygiene
- Wear a hospital-issued mask and keep mask on while in hospital (including while in the patient's room)
- Stay two metres from other people in the hospital
- Limit movement in the hospital to only within the patient's room



Visiting St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Frequently Asked Questions - cont...



My daughter just had a baby, can I visit her?

Your daughter is allowed two essential caregivers to visit her while in hospital. You daughter will need to have this discussion with her health care team.



My mother walks with a cane. She wants me to attend an appointment with her to hear her results. Can I attend the appointment with her?

If your mother requires your physical support to assist her to the appointment, you must be fully vaccinated, must pass the screening questions asked at our entrance, and must wear a mask to enter the hospital. If your mother would like you to attend the appointment with her and the health care team has determined that you are an essential caregiver, you may be permitted to attend the appointment. Please speak with your mother (the patient) and the health care team to make arrangements.



Can I drop off food?

Non-perishable food items can be dropped off for a patient at one of the respective screening desks as long as there has been approval from the patient's care team. The items must be labeled and must be able to sit out without refrigeration. Food items can be dropped off at the screening desk and will be transported to the patient's unit when the care team is available.



Can I drop off personal belongings?

Personal belongings such as clothing, books and magazines can be dropped off for a patient at one of the respective screening desks as long as there has been approval from the patient's care team. The items must be labeled with the patient's name and room number. We request that expensive items or items with sentimental value be kept at home as the hospital will not replace lost or stolen items. Personal belongings can be dropped off at the screening desk and will be transported to the patient's unit when the care team is available.



As an essential caregiver, do I need to be fully vaccinated?

Yes. All essential caregivers must be fully vaccinated (received full series of a COVID-19 vaccine or combination of COVID-19 vaccines; and having received the final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.