

Essential Care Partners Fact Sheet

Runnymede Healthcare Centre recognizes the essential role of care partners in improving the experience and maximizing positive outcomes for our patients. Family members, friends, caregivers or others deemed significant by the patient, Power of Attorney (POA) or Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) can apply to become an Essential Care Partner, which will allow for enhanced access to the patient in order to provide them with the supportive care they require throughout their admission.

What is an Essential Care Partner?

- Essential Care Partners provide physical, psychological, and emotional support, as deemed important by the patient. This care can include support in decision-making, care coordination and continuity of care
- Essential Care Partners do not perform regulated acts as defined in the [Regulated Health Professionals Act, 1991](#)
- Essential Care Partners will be permitted on a scheduled basis
- Frequency and duration of visit(s) will be based on patient/care needs and will be determined by the Patient Care Manager (or designate) in collaboration with the patient, Essential Care Partner and the care team

Who Can Be an Essential Care Partner?

- Essential Care Partners can include family members, close friends or other caregivers as identified by the patient or Substitute Decision Maker
- Each patient may designate a maximum of two (2) Essential Care Partners for the duration of their admission at Runnymede (exceptions may apply and will be at the discretion of the Patient Care Manager)

How Do I Become an Essential Care Partner?

- Patients and partners in care may apply for Essential Care Partner access or status through completion of the *Essential Care Partner Application Form* which must be submitted for review/approval by the Patient Care Manager

What is Expected of Me as an Essential Care Partner?

- Once your Essential Care Partner application has been approved, you will be required to:
 - Complete the hospital *Essential Care Partner Attestation Form* and *Essential Care Partner Indemnification and Waiver* prior to your first visit
 - Complete the *Essential Care Partner Photo Identification Badge Form* to obtain an Essential Care Partner ID badge
 - Complete any training deemed necessary by the care team prior to providing assistance with medical/personal care or treatment

- At each visit, Essential Care Partners will be required to:
 - Pass the screening upon entry to the hospital
 - Wear an Essential Care Partner ID badge at all times while on hospital grounds
 - Wear all required PPE and follow all health and safety protocols as outlined by the care team during your time in the hospital
 - Sign-in upon arrival to the patient care unit
 - Remain in the designated care area(s) for the duration of your visit, unless otherwise directed and/or approved by Runnymede staff
- Essential Care Partners must continuously self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and notify the Patient Care Manager for the floor if you develop any COVID-19 symptoms.

What about COVID-19 vaccination and testing for Essential Care Partners?

To support health and safety in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Runnymede Healthcare Centre offers both COVID-19 vaccination and rapid-testing on-site at the hospital for our Essential Care Partners and visitors. Although not mandatory, the hospital recommends COVID-19 vaccination for those who are eligible and have no contraindications to vaccination, in addition to weekly COVID-19 rapid testing. For more information or to book a COVID-19 test or vaccination, appointments can be booked [online](#) or by contacting 416-762-7316 ext. 2701.

For more information or if you wish to apply to be an Essential Care Partner, please contact the Patient Experience department at 416-762-7316 ext. 2119 or at patient.relations@runnymedehc.ca