

**For Immediate Release:**

**Dec. 30, 2021**

## **Changes to LHSC Visitor Policy effective December 31**

**LONDON, Ontario** – Effective December 31 at midnight, all non-essential care partner visits at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) will be paused due to the current stage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As the Omicron variant spreads rapidly, it’s imperative to implement these measures to maintain a safe environment for patients, families, staff and physicians at LHSC and Children’s Hospital,” said Robert Sibbald, director of patient experience. “We know that families and friends help patients heal and we are working hard to balance this factor with the need for enhanced safety during this difficult time.”

The additional safety measures will limit the number of people present, depending on the situation. In most cases, only one essential care partner will be able to visit at any one time. Exceptions to this include inpatients in Children’s Hospital and those in palliative care. More information on these changes can be found on our [website](#).

Key points:

- Non-essential visits are paused until further notice
- One essential visitor is permitted at any one time
- Two essential visitors are permitted for inpatients in Children’s Hospital and for those in palliative care
- Essential visitors include those supporting labouring women, parents of children, and relatives of those in palliative care
- Patients are encouraged to work with their health care teams to identify essential care partners who can visit based on safety, ability to support care delivery, or compassionate reasons
- Parents visiting children are encouraged to make care arrangements

for other children or siblings before visiting as they may not be permitted in some clinical areas

-30-

### **About London Health Sciences Centre**

As one of Canada's largest acute-care teaching hospitals, LHSC is dedicated to providing exceptional patient care, while championing the spirit of medical advancement through teaching practices and breakthrough research. For 146 years, LHSC has been an integral part of the London community offering compassionate medical care for its people, as well as those across the Southwestern Ontario region, and the world. National and international medical firsts have been pioneered at LHSC, including the discovery of vinblastine and the use of cobalt radiation transforming the lives of people across the globe. Through collaborative partnerships with Western University and over 30 educational institutions, more than 1,800 health care professionals actively seek out training opportunities each year at LHSC, acknowledging the opportunity to work alongside some of Canada's top medical scholars. With more than 15,000 staff, physicians, and residents, LHSC is committed to achieving its vision *'Working together to shape the future of health'*. More information about LHSC can be found at [www.lhsc.on.ca](http://www.lhsc.on.ca).

#### **Contact Information:**

Alex Pedersen  
Corporate Communications and Public Relations  
London Health Sciences Centre  
Pager 18218  
[Alex.Pedersen@lhsc.on.ca](mailto:Alex.Pedersen@lhsc.on.ca)

#### **After-hours assistance:**

Call LHSC Switchboard at 519-685-8500 and ask to page the communication consultant on-call.

Like us on Facebook at LHSC Canada, follow us on Twitter @LHSCCanada and watch us on YouTube at LHSCCanada.