



March 20, 2020

Dear Community Clergy, Faith Leaders, and Faith Community Visitors,

NSHA recognizes that spiritual and religious care is an important aspect of providing holistic healthcare. Community Clergy and Faith Leaders are key partners in the provision of that care. However, in light of the necessary precautions around Covid 19, the following measures are being put in place to ensure the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians:

- Visitors are no longer allowed in any NSHA facilities. Community based clergy and faith leaders who are registered with us (have a valid NSHA ID) will be permitted to **visit only patients/families who have specifically requested their visit**, and only for emergency or end of life religious care. Please do not visit for any other reason.
- To facilitate this, we will **not** be printing patient lists until further notice. We ask that you go directly to the patient room, and then directly out of the building. Please do not go from unit to unit, or around common areas of the hospital.
- If you know the name of the person you are visiting, but not the room, you may still inquire at the information desk. Please ensure you have your NSHA ID visible, or you will not be permitted to enter. Please expect to be questioned as to the purpose of your visit.
- Clergy who are not registered with us will not be permitted to visit. Clergy and Faith Leaders are always welcome to phone into the hospital to support patients. Our chaplains/spiritual care providers will continue to assess patients, and will reach out, or encourage patients/families to reach out should they wish to connect with someone from their home faith community.
- You are respectfully reminded that there are standard guidelines to follow in order to ensure you can visit safely. Please follow best practices for infection control. You are encouraged to review courses on "Guest General Orientation for Infection Prevention and Control for New Employees" and "Infection Prevention and Control Hand Hygiene" available on line at: <https://elearning.nshealth.ca/Studio/Catalogue>
- **Do not visit** the hospital if you or anyone in your household feels unwell, have cold or flu symptoms, or have travelled outside of the country in the past two weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Spiritual Care Coordinator or Program Manager at the QEII or Dartmouth General. Updates will be sent out to registered community clergy and faith leaders as the current situation changes.

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