

Guiding principles	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All patients are tested for Covid-19 upon admission to Women and Babies. 2. All patients will be screened as per Niagara Health’s Infection Prevention and Control Testing Tool (INF001) upon arrival to the unit. 3. Support persons in women and babies are not required to be fully vaccinated at this time. 4. All Health Care Providers are to complete their Point-of-Care Risk Assessment prior to providing care and follow current PPE/IPAC guidance from Niagara Health. 5. Doulas are an integral part of the birth experience and are permitted in addition to the patient’s support person. Doulas are required to be fully vaccinated, pass screening and adhere to all NH guidelines. 	
Unscheduled visits (OB Triage)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A support person who screens negative for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19 may attend OB triage with the patient, however once the FHR/labour status/stable condition is determined, due to space constraints the support person can be asked to wait outside of the hospital until a plan of care is determined and/or the patient is admitted. 	
Planned visits (NSTs, IOL assessments, Rhogam Clinic, etc.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No support person able to accompany 	
EPAC	
Support Person able to accompany patient to appointment	
Inpatients	
<p>Asymptomatic patient who has passed screening but whose admission covid-19 test result is pending</p>	<p>One support person throughout the length of stay who remains unchanged. This support person during labour and birth as long as the following criteria is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support person screens negative for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19 • Niagara Health has sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) for the support person • The ability to ensure adequate spacing in the care environment to ensure support people can appropriately physically distanced from other patients and support people • The support person remains compliant with physical distancing and infection control instructions including proper use of PPE. <p>The patient and support person are treated as a unit while patient remains in additional precautions.</p> <p>The support person may accompany the patient to the OR and will be provided with a N95 respirator and face shield.</p>
<p>Asymptomatic patients who test negative for Covid-19</p>	<p>One support person throughout the length of stay who remains unchanged. This support person during labour and birth as long as the following criteria is met:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support person screens negative for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19 • Niagara Health has sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) for the support person • The ability to ensure adequate spacing in the care environment to ensure support people can appropriately physically distanced from other patients and support people • The support person remains compliant with physical distancing and infection control instructions including proper use of PPE. <p>The support person is able to enter the OR</p>
<p>Patient who has recently tested positive for Covid-19</p>	<p>If a patient has a recent positive test and has not yet tested negative/resolved, they may have one support person present who remains unchanged during labour and birth and screens negative for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19.</p> <p>The patient and support person are treated as a unit while patient remains in additional precautions. The support person can also be Covid-19 positive, but must be asymptomatic.</p> <p>The support person may stay with the patient in the room as long as the following criteria is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must remain in the patient room at all times. • No in-and-out privileges • Niagara Health has sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) for the support person • The ability to ensure adequate spacing in the care environment to ensure support people can appropriately physically distanced from other patients and support people • The support person remains compliant with physical distancing and infection control instructions including proper use of PPE. <p>The support person is unable to enter the OR</p>
<p>Patients who decline a COVID-19 test upon admission</p>	<p>Patients who refuse a test will be managed as if they have tested positive for covid-19.</p> <p>They may have one support person present that remains unchanged during labour and birth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screens negative for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19

	<p>The patient and support person are treated as a unit while patient remains in additional precautions.</p> <p>The support person may stay with the patient in the room as long as the following criteria is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must remain in the patient room at all times. • No in-and-out privileges • Niagara Health has sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) for the support person • The ability to ensure adequate spacing in the care environment to ensure support people can appropriately physically distanced from other patients and support people • The support person remains compliant with physical distancing and infection control instructions including proper use of PPE.
<p>If a patient has covid-19 symptoms upon arrival to Women and Babies</p>	<p>The support person is unable to enter the OR</p> <p>The patient will be placed on additional precautions while awaiting results of their Covid-19 test. The patient’s support person may stay with the patient and remain in the room.</p> <p>The patient and support person are treated as a unit while patient remains in additional precautions.</p> <p>The support person may stay with the patient in the room as long as the following criteria is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screens negative for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19 • Must remain in the patient room at all times. • No in-and-out privileges • Niagara Health has sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) for the support person • The ability to ensure adequate spacing in the care environment to ensure support people can appropriately physically distanced from other patients and support people • The support person remains compliant with physical distancing and infection

	<p>control instructions including proper use of PPE.</p> <p>The support person is unable to enter the OR</p>
<p>If a patient has no symptoms when admitted, but then develops symptoms</p>	<p>The patient will be placed on additional precautions. The patient’s support person may stay with the patient and remain in the room.</p> <p>The patient and support person are treated as a unit while patient remains in additional precautions.</p> <p>The support person may stay with the patient in the room as long as the following criteria is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screens negative for any signs and symptoms of Covid-19 • Must remain in the patient room at all times. • No in-and-out privileges • Niagara Health has sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) for the support person • The ability to ensure adequate spacing in the care environment to ensure support people can appropriately physically distanced from other patients and support people • The support person remains compliant with physical distancing and infection control instructions including proper use of PPE. <p>The support person is unable to enter the OR</p>
<p>Antepartum Inpatients</p>	
<p>Once stable, no support person. Should their clinical status change (i.e. active labour) one support person who remains unchanged may stay with the patient.</p> <p>Patients with a length of stay of seven days or more may be permitted one support person.</p>	

- If at any time a support person develops signs and symptoms of Covid-19 they will be unable to remain with the patient.
- No support person is able to enter the OR during an AGMP
- If at any time Niagara Health or the community experience a surge in Covid-19 infections, this policy may change and new protocols will be implemented.
- Additional exemptions may be approved to address exceptional considerations (e.g., need for language interpretation, critically ill women, bereaved families) as well as to encompass the diversity of families we care for (e.g., adoptive and surrogacy families, persons with disabilities). Any exceptions to visitor restrictions must be reviewed and approved by the Women and Babies leadership team in collaboration with IPAC.