

# Families' presence on the inpatient units during COVID-19



In order to help keep everyone safe and minimize the chance of transmission of infections during this pandemic, we had to modify our family presence policy. This decision has not been taken lightly, and we understand it may be difficult for all involved.

What is the Montreal Children's Hospital family presence policy during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Two adult caregivers may be present at your child's bedside at any given time (only 1 overnight). Each family will receive 2 bracelets to be worn at all times to designate your child's dedicated caregivers, who are allowed to be present.

Unfortunately siblings are not allowed to visit. Be vigilant of the number of people with whom you are in contact outside the unit to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.



What can I do to help prevent the transmission of infection?

Hand hygiene is very important to prevent the spread of infections within a hospital. Wash your hands:

- every time you enter and exit your child's room,
- before and after helping your child eat,
- after helping your child blow their nose, and
- after a diaper change.

For hand hygiene, you can use the alcohol-based hand rub provided for all situations except: after a diaper change, before and after eating, after using a bathroom, if your hands are visibly soiled, or when your child is on additional precautions for diarrhea. In these cases, hand washing with soap and water is recommended.

A mask or face covering is mandatory for people ages 10 years and older (and highly recommended for those ages 2-9 years) AT ALL TIMES except when patient/caregiver are alone in their room.

What happens if my child needs to be tested for COVID-19 while in the hospital?



You and your child will remain confined to your child's room until the results come back negative. Only one parent will be allowed to stay overnight. Use the in-room bathroom. Eat meals brought from home in your child's room or a food tray will be provided by Food Services for one family member until your child's COVID-19 test is negative. Parents should NOT leave the room to get food at a hospital vendor or the cafeteria.

If your child has suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and you have already taken care of your child in the days before confirmation of their diagnosis, you are not obligated to wear protective equipment (mask, gown and gloves) while caring for them alone in their room as you have already been exposed. However, if you have not taken care of your child in the days before confirmation of their diagnosis, you will be asked to wear protective equipment while caring for them in hospital.

What if a parent or caregiver is showing symptoms such as cough, fever, respiratory difficulty, diarrhea or vomiting?

You will be asked to go home and will be encouraged to get tested. There is a COVID-19 testing center at the Glen site should you want to be tested here. Stay home according to Public Health guidelines on home isolation (visit [Quebec.ca/coronavirus](https://www.quebec.ca/coronavirus) for more information) and have another caregiver come to the hospital to help care for your child until your COVID-19 result is negative, you have had no fever for at least 2 days and no symptoms for 24h.



Thank you for your collaboration and do not hesitate to ask a member of your child's care team should you have any questions.