

News Release

Bluewater Health Further Reduces Visiting

Helping Keep Patients and Loved Ones Connected During Restrictions

SARNIA & PETROLIA – March 23, 2020 – Following the recommendation from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Bluewater Health is further reducing visiting to ensure a safe and secure environment for patients and staff. Only labouring mothers, paediatric patients, patients undergoing surgery, or patients who are end-of-life may have one consistent visitor throughout their stay. Designated visitors will be screened for symptoms and recent travel, and are required to check in at the nurses' station. We appreciate your cooperation during this difficult time.

"The well-being of the Sarnia-Lambton community, our patients and staff at Bluewater Health is our top priority," says Shannon Landry, Chief Nursing Executive. "We recognize the impact of isolation for patients and families, and are doing whatever we can to help patients and loved ones stay connected throughout these restrictions. We are offering patients other tools to stay busy as we implement best practices to manage anticipated surges in patient volumes due to COVID-19." Bedside TV programming will be offered free of charge until further notice.

The hospital is supporting the use of technology to help families and friends stay connected with a patient in hospital. Patients are invited to connect with their loved ones through virtual options, such as Skype, FaceTime or telephone calls. Those who are not able to use their own devices to communicate through audio or video calls will receive assistance with hospital devices and technology platforms.

Patients are also encouraged to register for social opportunities such as Lambton County Connects, a telephone-based program offered to older patients who live in Lambton County. Visit <https://www.lambtoncares.ca/lambton-county-connects/>.

Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health's Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.* For more information about Bluewater Health, visit www.bluewaterhealth.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

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