

## Changes to Hospital Visitation Policies

TORONTO, June 9, 2020 – Ontario’s hospitals deeply appreciate the invaluable role that caregivers play in supporting family members and friends who are patients in hospitals. We understand how heart-wrenching and frustrating it has been for caregivers to be separated from loved ones during the pandemic and State of Emergency.

Now that the pandemic has stabilized, the OHA and its members are working with the Ministry of Health and partners such as the Ontario Caregiver Organization to establish evidence-based guidance that incorporates safety and infection prevention and control measures to facilitate greater caregiver presence in hospitals.

Ultimately, to proceed with a change in policy respecting caregivers and visitors an amendment to current directives from the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario will be necessary. Given factors such as local COVID-19 infections, rising hospital occupancy, rising numbers of alternate-level-of-care patients (who await placement in more appropriate settings), increasing emergency room visits, ramping up of scheduled activity and PPE supply considerations it is essential that this matter be handled with great care. Maintaining the confidence of patients and their families is extremely important to all Ontario hospitals and we are working expeditiously with our partners to address this quality of care matter.

- Anthony Dale, President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association

### Ontario Hospital Association

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) is the voice of the province’s public hospitals. The OHA serves hospitals through advocacy, learning and engagement, labour relations and data and analytics to build a better health system. We do this by conducting evidence-based research, proposing ideas, convening members and partners, and encouraging responsible dialogue about change.