

## Pilot: Change of visiting hours at UHNBC and limiting access to public washrooms after hours

The University Hospital of Northern BC (UHNBC) main doors are open weekdays between 6:00 am and 7:00 pm, and on weekends from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. The public can still enter through the Emergency Department after these hours for visitation. Some units have restrictions on visitation during shift changes (at 7:00 am/pm, for 30 minutes), and there is no overnight visitation unless a person is identified as essential for a patient's care needs, or when a patient is critically ill or palliative.

The Maternity unit also has set visitation hours between 10:00 am to 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Two support people (with wristband identification) are allowed, 24/7. In the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), both parents and one additional person are allowed 24/7, except for children.

### New Hours for visitation

Most units will now have visitation hours of 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, effective January 6, 2025.

### Why are new hours needed?

- Set visiting times during the day will allow staff to plan patient care needs around visitation, and limit interruptions to patient care.
- Limiting visitation will also decrease interruptions and traffic on the floors, to allow patients increased opportunities to rest and heal.
- Improved safety within the UHNBC facility after hours for staff and patients.

### Who will it not affect?

- Family identified as essential to the patient's care needs.
- Family staying with their loved ones who are palliative.
- Family visiting loved ones that are critically ill and are not stable.
- Family required to be on site for a family meeting during non-visiting hours.
- NICU, Maternity, and Pediatrics visiting hours will not change. Visit our website for [more information on the UHNBC maternity unit](#).

## **Limiting access to specific public washrooms**

- UHNBC has an obligation to protect its staff and the public by limiting access to high-risk areas, such as public washrooms where unfortunately the facility has noted an increase in risk behaviours such as inhalation of illicit drugs.
  - Washrooms will be clearly marked to indicate the hours of closure.

### **Areas it will not affect:**

- Staff washrooms.
- Public washrooms within inpatient units.
- Public washroom by ICU/HAU (near the main elevators), for the use of visitors to patients in critical condition in these areas.