

What is the difference between Social Visitors (SVs) and Designated Support Persons (DSPs)?

	DSPs	Social Visitors
Must pass self screening	Yes	Yes
Allowed to enter when feeling unwell	Unless there is a need for an exception, we ask all DSPs to not enter if they are feeling unwell.	We ask all Social Visitors to not enter if they are feeling unwell.
Role in patient care	Active partner-in-care and an essential member of the health care team	Not an active partner in-care and not considered an essential member to the health care team
Support Provided	DSPs are active partners in care and can provide additional support to the patient. This support can include physical or emotional care and can be very specific to the patient's needs. DSPs also can provide key patient information and assist with decision making.	A social visitor is not essential and is not involved in supporting the patient or assisting with emotional or physical support, patient care or decision making
Visiting Hours	No restrictions – visiting hours are decided in collaboration with the health care staff and are flexible to meet patient needs	Restricted to social visiting hours – from 2-8 pm daily
Age	18 years or older	Any age. Children 12 and under must be supervised at all times by an adult who is not the patient or a staff member. Children ages 2 or above must wear a mask when required.
Physical Distancing	Do not need to practice physical distancing <i>with the patient they are supporting</i>	Must adhere to physical distancing from the patient they are visiting and all others
Number allowed to visit at one time	TWO at a time. This may be two DSPs OR two social visitors OR one DSP and one social visitor. The overall number of DSPs permitted and number of DSPs who can be present at one time varies depending on the patient's condition and the respiratory illness activity levels within the hospital and community. Please see Horizon's current DSP and visitor guidelines for the number of allowable DSPs.	TWO at a time. This may be two designated support persons (DSP) OR two social visitors OR one DSP and one social visitor. The overall number of social visitors who can be present at one time varies depending on the patient's condition and the respiratory illness activity levels within the hospital and community. Please see Horizon's current DSP and visitor guidelines for the number of allowable social visitors.

Education Required	<p>Online education is required</p> <p>Horizon staff can assist you with required education. Please call 1-833-625-1653 or email DSP-PSD@horizonnb.ca to make an appointment to receive assistance.</p>	<p>Formal education is not required. Social visitors must abide by all Infection prevention and Control guidelines such as practicing hand hygiene, maintaining physical distancing from patients and staff, and wearing a medical grade face mask if required.</p>
IPC Measures – practicing hand hygiene, limiting visitation to one patient, using the public washroom, eating and drinking only in designated locations, and wearing a mask when required.	Required	Required
Permission to visit patient care units experiencing an exposure or respiratory virus outbreak	<p>Yes, DSPs may be permitted when patient care units are experiencing a respiratory virus exposure or outbreak. The number of DSPs could be decreased due to the increased risk to patients, and staff. Additional measures including wearing additional personal protective equipment may be required. DSPs are to speak to the health care staff regarding these additional measures.</p> <p>Virtual partnerships in care with the DSPs will also be supported so they can actively participate with the care team. This participation may occur through virtual means such as phone, video conference or email and should be considered a short term or interim measure.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>Social visitors are not permitted on patient care units experiencing an exposure or outbreak of a respiratory virus.</p>
Approval required from Nurse Manager or Designate to visit	Yes	No