



COVID-19 Hospital and Clinic Visitor Policy

Nonadherence to any of the infection-prevention principles outlined in this policy will result in denial of visitation.

- **Everyone** (patients, healthcare personnel, and visitors) entering the facility are assessed for both symptoms of COVID-19, exposure to others with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection upon entry into the facility.
- Visitors must sign-in and wear a visitor badge.
- **Limited access into the hospital**, including vendors.
- Is practicing source control (e.g., wearing a facemask). See **Universal Source Control Measures**
- Visitors will follow **physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others**.
- Visitors are instructed to only visit the patient’s room. They should not go to other locations in the facility. Exception granted for the use of nearest public restroom. Visitors should not use patient bathrooms.
- Visitors with confirmed or suspected SARS-CoV-2 are restricted from entering the facility and referred for proper evaluation.
- Facility will not verify visitor vaccination status, test status, severity of disease, or immunological status.

| Visitors who are: | Should not visit until: |
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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Not moderately to severely immunocompromised</u> and have <u>recently had mild to moderate SARS-CoV-2 infection</u></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symptoms improve with no fever in the past 24 hours and no fever reducing medication AND ○ 10 days from onset of symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 days from onset of symptoms with a negative SARS-CoV-2 antigen test collected within 48 hours. |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines</u> and have <u>had close contact</u> (defined as within 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes in 24 hours)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 days from last date of close contact <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 days from last date of close contact with a negative SARS-CoV-2 antigen or NAAT test collected within 48 hours. |

Visitors of ALL Patients in Areas with:

- ✓ **LOW to MODERATE** Transmission
- ✓ Visitors of Patients with **Suspected** or **Confirmed COVID-19** in Areas with **ANY LEVEL OF TRANSMISSION**
 - Limit visitors to the facility to only those essential for the patient’s physical or emotional well-being and care.
 - To the extent possible visitors should not enter patient rooms - use telecommunication. Exceptions on case-by case for end-of-life care or to reduce disruptive/unsafe patient behavior.
 - Encourage use of alternative mechanisms for patient and visitor interactions such as video-call applications or cell phones or tablets
 - Managers/physicians/house supervisor have the discretion to limit the duration of visitation based on clinical considerations.
 - If visitation to patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection occurs, visits should be scheduled and controlled to allow for the following:

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| Evaluation of the risk to the health of the visitor. Consider underlying illness putting them at higher risk for COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minors under the age of 18 will not be allowed in rooms of confirmed COVID-19 positive patients or Persons Under Investigation (PUI), unless at end of life. |
| Ability to comply with precautions |
| Provide instruction, before visitors enter patients’ rooms regarding: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hand hygiene2. The use of Personal-Protective Equipment (PPE) according to facilities policy while in the patient’s room3. Visitors are NOT PRESENT during aerosol generating procedures (AGP), unless necessary as part of patient care4. Visitors are instructed to only visit the patient’s room. They should not go to other locations in the facility.5. No eating or drinking in patient’s room |

- **See Essential patient well-being and care guidelines below.**

Essential patient well-being and care guidelines

Exceptions to the following guidelines may only be granted by:

1. **Administrator on Call**
- or**
2. **Nurse Leader on Call**

| Patient Type | Guidelines |
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| Obstetric patients | 2 support persons |
| Post-partum | <u>Mother of baby</u> plus <u>one significant other</u> who may remain in the room for the duration of the visit |
| End-of-life | Up to two visitors |
| Altered mental status or developmental delays (where caregiver provides safety) | 1 visitor |
| Minors under the age of 18 | 2 visitors that are limited to parents or guardians |
| Patients with a medical condition, mental health condition, developmental or cognitive condition, where a family member is key to their care | 1 visitor |
| Patients undergoing surgery or procedures may have | 1 visitor who must leave the hospital as soon as possible after the procedure/surgery. |
| Patients who have a scheduled hospital or clinic appointment in the laboratory, radiology or outpatient clinic, the Emergency Department, Urgent Care | 1 person with them but are highly encouraged to come alone if possible. |
| Patients with disabilities | Up to 2 support persons depending on the circumstance. |
| Patients with prolonged hospitalizations | May have 1 visitor at a time. No minors under the age of 18. |
| Patients who need in-person training of a caregiver prior to discharge. | Caregiver(s) |

Universal Source Control Measures

- Visitors must wear appropriate source control (e.g., facemasks).
- As required under Proclamation 20-25.14, including any subsequent amendments, visitors are required to wear face coverings in compliance with the Secretary of Health's order (20-03.4), including the exceptions and exemptions therein.
- Patients and visitors wear well-fitting form of source control (e.g., facemask) upon arrival to and throughout their stay in the facility. Facilities provide a facemask (at minimum equivalent to the community recommendations) to those without a facemask.
 - ✓ If possible, patients wear source control (e.g., facemask) when in their rooms when visitors or staff are in the room. Patients may remove their source control (e.g., facemask) when alone in their room. Visits should not be denied if patients are unable to wear source control (e.g., facemask).
 - ✓ Cloth masks, facemasks and respirators are not placed on young children under age 2, anyone who cannot wear one safely, such as someone who has a disability or an underlying medical condition that precludes wearing a mask safely, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove their cloth mask, facemask or respirator without assistance.
 - ✓ Visitors who are not able to wear source control (e.g., facemask) are encouraged to use alternatives to on-site visits with patients (e.g., telephone or internet communication), particularly if the patient is at increased risk for severe illness from SARS-CoV-2 infection.