

Visitor Guidance Related to Public Health Emergencies

Purpose

During periods where there is ongoing transmission of new or emerging pathogens of concern (e.g., SARS-CoV-2), these additional precautions must be implemented.

Restricted Access

Restrictions vary based on public health authority guidelines. See specific pathogen guidelines.

Pathogen-Specific guidance	SARS-CoV-2
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Restricted Access

Limitations to visitor access are guided by COVID-19 transmission levels which are monitored by the CDC. Transmission levels must be sustained for 14-days before lesser interventions can be implemented.

- During periods of **LOW** transmission:
 - see “*Not permitted*” below
 - Emergency department patients are allowed 2 visitors at a time.
- During periods of **MODERATE** transmission:
 - see “*Not permitted*” below
 - Emergency department patients are allowed 2 visitors at a time.
- During periods of **SUSTAINED** transmission:
 - see “*Not permitted*” below
 - Emergency department patients are allowed 2 visitors at a time.
- During periods of **HIGH** transmission:
 - 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. During LOW - SUSTAINED transmission rates, active screening is not required.
 - Visitors must sign-in and wear a visitor badge.

- Limited access into the hospital and clinic for patients and visitors.
- 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.
- No eating or drinking in the patient's room.
- 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.
- Guidelines by department:

Patient Type	Guidelines
Obstetric patients	<i>2 designated support persons per day</i>
Post-partum	<u>Mother of baby plus 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)

- **Not permitted** (regardless of COVID-19 transmission rates):
 - Visitors who have received a positive COVID-19 test or diagnosis within the last 10 days
 1. Do not visit until at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms have improved.
 - Visitor is having symptoms of COVID-19
 1. Do not visit until at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and symptoms have improved.
 - Visitor has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are unable to be tested or wear source control.
 1. Non-urgent visits should be deferred until 10 days after their close contact if the visitor is unable to wear a mask or undergo testing.
- **Patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19** (regardless of COVID-19 transmission rates):
 - Limit visitors to the facility to only those essential for the patient's physical or emotional well-being and care (for example, care partner, parent).
 - Encourage use of alternative mechanisms for patient and visitor interactions such as video-call applications on cell phones or tablets
 1. If visitation to patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection occurs, visits should be scheduled and controlled to allow for the following:
 - Evaluate the risk to the health of the visitor (for example., visitor might have under-lying illness putting them at higher risk for COVID-19) and ability to comply with precautions. 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.
 - Facilities provide instruction, before visitors enter patients' rooms, on hand hygiene, and use of PPE according to current facility policy while in the patient's room.
 - Visitors are not present during AGPs or other procedures, unless necessary as part of patient care.
 - Visitors are instructed to only visit the patient's room. They should not go to other locations in the facility.

Use of Source Control

Source control requirements vary based on COVID-19 community transmission rates.

The following are excluded:

1. Children 2 years old or younger
 2. Anyone who cannot wear one safely (e.g., someone with a disability or an underlying medical condition that precludes wearing a mask safely)
- During periods of **LOW** transmission:
 - Well-fitting source control is required if any of the following conditions are met:
 1. Visitor has had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Use well-fitting source control if visit is deemed essential.
 2. Visitor has been advised to use source control by a public health authority.
 - During periods of **MODERATE** transmission:
 - Well-fitting source control is required if any of the following conditions are met:
 1. Visitor has had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Use well-fitting source control if visit is deemed essential.
 2. Visitor has been advised to use source control by a public health authority.
 - During periods of **SUSTAINED** transmission:
 - Well-fitting source control is required if any of the following conditions are met:
 1. Visitor has had close contact with someone with COVID-19. Use well-fitting source control if visit is deemed essential.
 2. Visitor has been advised to use source control by a public health authority.
 - During periods of **HIGH** transmission:
 - All approved visitors must utilize well-fitting source control throughout their visit.

Café

Public visitation for persons without hospital business is not allowed unless prior approval has been received from administration (in collaboration with hospital Infection Preventionist).

Hospitalized inpatients may not utilize the café.

The following may dine in the café:

- Outpatients (e.g., radiology, laboratory)
- Those visiting or supporting hospitalized or perioperative patients (e.g., MSU, OB, Surgery)
- Staff, including contracted staff
- CVCH staff
- Students
- Volunteers

Approved by Infection Control Committee 3/2023 via virtual vote.