

Interim Protocol for Expanded Visitation during Phase 2 COVID-19 Recovery

This guidance applies to visitors and essential escorts in inpatient, ambulatory, emergency departments, urgent care centers, and OR/procedural areas. Care teams should continue to encourage and support alternative electronic methods for communication between patients and visitors. When in-person visitation is requested or indicated, the following protocol should be used.

Identify the person/people who would like to visit a patient in the hospital

Visitor type	Definition	Phase 2 Visitation
"Companions"	Birth partners, parents of patients < 18 years old, attorneys of patients and companions/essential escorts for patients with intellectual and/or physical disabilities	Yes*
"Visitors"	Adult individual (defined as anyone else the patient wants involved in their care, regardless of whether they are biologically, legally, or otherwise related)	Yes* <i>only 1 visitor at a time in the hospital†</i>
	Patient's children at least 12 years of age	Yes* <i>Some care units or patient situations may require limits</i>
	Patient's children under age 12 years	No**
	Other children	No
"Non-essential personnel"	e.g., sales vendors and those who are not involved in the care of patients	No

* Assuming all other conditions below are met

**Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis by the care team

† Exceptions to the "one visitor at a time" and other rules may be considered on a case-by case basis, collaboratively with patients and families, as part of "compassionate care situations" for instance end-of-life visits – see that protocol for details.

Screening

- All visitors will be screened at facility entrance for symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection (fever/feverishness, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, body aches, or new onset of loss of taste or smell).
- Individuals with any symptom of possible COVID-19 infection should not be permitted into the hospital
 - Unless pre-approved by patient's care team for a compassionate care situation (for instance end-of-life)
 - See the "Interim Protocol for Compassionate Care End-of-Life (EOL) Visitation by a Symptomatic Visitor"
- Visitation may be prohibited on a case-by-case basis if visitation poses a significant infection control risk to the patients, visitor, or staff.
- **If a visitor refuses to delay their visit or to wear a mask, please ask if they would like to speak to a nurse or practice manager. If they still do not agree to delay their visit, please escalate the situation to the attending physician.**

Inpatient, Emergency Department, Urgent Care and OR/Procedural Areas Visit Logistics

- Individuals must be able to don/doff PPE appropriate for each visit in order to enter a patient's room.
- Each patient is only allowed one visitor at a time.
- All visitors should wait outside the building, rather than in waiting rooms or cafeterias, until the time of their visit (if possible).
- All visitors are required to:
 - Wear at all times while in the facility
 - Inpatient areas: A surgical mask will be provided upon arrival
 - All other areas: Cloth face coverings or other masks are permitted (without exhalation valves). A surgical mask will be provided for visitors without one.
 - Perform hand hygiene before visiting a patient

Inpatient Visitation Protocol, Based on Patient's COVID Status		
Patient Status	Asymptomatic and No Exposure, COVID-19 Quarantine, COVID-19 Negative, or Prior COVID-19	COVID-19 Positive or Suspect Patient
Visit Timing	Whenever appropriate based on patient's plan of care; no visitation during an aerosol-generating procedure (AGP)	No visitation during an AGP and for 30 minutes following any AGP, if meeting in patient's room
Visit site	Patient's room (with curtain drawn, if double room) or other suitable meeting place†	Private room or other isolated meeting place (closed room that can be cleaned following visit, or outdoor space separate from other patients/visitors)
Visitor PPE in Room	Surgical mask, in addition to other precaution requirements	Surgical mask, eye protection, gown, gloves
Visit Length	To be determined by the specific unit and specific circumstances	To be determined by the specific unit and specific circumstances, limited to under 1 hour when possible

Ambulatory Visit Logistics

- All visitors/essential escorts are required to:
 - Wear a cloth face covering or other mask without exhalation valve at all times while in the facility. A surgical mask will be provided for visitors without one.
 - Perform hand hygiene before visiting a patient
- Visitors/essential escorts with symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to wait outside the facility until the end of the visit.
 - Before exiting, obtain a phone number where the visitor can be reached (e.g., in case they are needed to pick up the patient after the appointment).
 - Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for essential patient escorts and other visitors by discussion with the nurse manager or supervisor of the specific area (e.g. an escort of a patient with dementia, and inpatient end-of-life visit [see institution guideline for details])