

Visitation Restrictions

During COVID-19, the rules for visitation fall into three categories: Visitation Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. See criteria below. All patients being admitted to an inpatient area will be tested for COVID-19. Visitors are not allowed in patient care areas until a negative result has been received for the patient.

General Visitation Level 1: (Patients Without COVID-19)			
Patient Population	Visitors/Caregivers	Hours/Duration	Notes
Inpatient	One visitor at a time, screened & masked	10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Time Limits: ICU: 30 minutes MS: 1 hour	No overnight visitors, 2 visitors total per day
Inpatients with Cognitive Impairment or Disability	One caregiver, screened & masked	Determined by nursing	Can switch caregivers twice a day in the hospital lobby
Emergency Department	Adult patients: One visitor, screened & masked Pediatric patients: Two visitors, screened & masked		Visitor(s) must remain at patient bedside, no switching and no leaving and re-entering unless approved by staff
Surgical Services	One visitor, screened & masked	During surgery hours	Escort to Surgical Waiting Area only. Only necessary visitation in Pre-Op/PACU. Must wait in designated waiting areas.
Clinics	One visitor, screened & masked		Visitors may be restricted if social distancing cannot be maintained due to space.
X-Ray Department & Laboratory	One visitor, screened & masked		Visitors may be restricted if social distancing cannot be maintained due to space.
Visitation by Minors			
Dependents under age 18 may visit by request only. Visits must happen during visiting hours (10 a.m. - 7 p.m.)			
Cafeteria			
Cafeteria will be open for staff, visitor of patients and patients. General Public not allowed access.			

General Visitation Level 2: (Patients Without COVID-19)			
Patient Population	Visitors/Caregivers	Hours/Duration	Notes
Inpatient	One visitor per day	1pm – 6pm Time Limits: ICU: 30 minutes Med Surg: 1 hour	No overnight visitors, switch every 24 hours.
Inpatients with Cognitive Impairment or Disability	One caregiver, screened & masked	Determined by nursing	Can switch caregivers twice a day in the hospital lobby
Emergency Department	Adult patients: One visitor, screened & masked Pediatric patients: Two visitors, screened & masked		Visitor(s) must remain at patient bedside, no switching and no leaving and re-entering unless approved by staff
Inpatient Surgery	One visitor, screened & masked	During surgery hours	Escort to Surgical Waiting Area only. Necessary visitation in Pre-Op/PACU. Must wait off-site or in designated waiting areas.
Clinics	One visitor, screened & masked		Visitors may be restricted if social distancing cannot be maintained due to space.
X-Ray Department & Laboratory	One visitor, screened & masked		Visitors may be restricted if social distancing cannot be maintained due to space.
Visitation by Minors			
Visitation by minors will not be allowed.			
Cafeteria			
Cafeteria will be open for staff, visitor of patients and patients. General Public not allowed access.			

General Visitation Level 3: (Patients Without COVID-19)			
Patient Population	Visitors/Caregivers	Hours/Duration	Notes
Emergency Department	One visitor, screened & masked		Visitor must remain at patient bedside, no leaving and re-entering unless approved by staff
Adult Inpatient	No visitors		Necessary visitation granted by exception.
Inpatient Adult Surgery	No visitors		
Clinics	No visitors		
X-Ray Department & Laboratory	No visitors		
Cafeteria			
Open only to staff.			

General Visitation: Inpatients with COVID-19

The following restrictions apply to COVID-19 patients and outpatients regardless of the current visitation level.

General Visitation: Inpatient Areas (Patients With COVID-19)			
Patient Population	Visitors/Caregivers	Hours/Duration	Notes
COVID-19 Adult	Video visits only	All hours	Exceptions made at the end of life.

How Visitation Levels Are Determined

The Visitation Leadership Team (VLT) will recommend moving to more restrictive visitation levels when one of the criteria for a stricter visitation are met. The VLT will recommend moving to less restrictive visitation levels when both of the criteria for the lower level are met. The VLT is comprised of the CEO, DON, Director of HR, Director of IP and current Administrator on Call.

Guide to Visitation Levels			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
DMH Covid Census	0-5	6-8	9+
Test Positivity (7-day average)	Less than 5.0%	Less than 6.0%	Greater than 6.0%

Exceptions for Inpatient, ED, Surgery and Ambulatory Visiting (Necessary Visitation)

- Visits to patients who are at the end of their life (have less than seven days to live, are on comfort care, or are being discharged to hospice as their next level of care).
- Visits by anyone who is legally authorized to make decisions for the patient, whether by operation of a durable power of attorney (DPOA) or conservatorship, or in the role of a surrogate decision-maker as recognized by the care provider team for patients who lack decisional capacity.
- Support people for patients with cognitive impairment or other neurological injury (such as stroke) or for patients who have developed hospital delirium or dementia, where the consistent presence of the visitor is necessary to reduce the risk of medical or clinical harm.
- Support people for patients who require assistance because of developmental disabilities, physical disabilities or limitations, or cognitive impairment.
- Visits by family and legal advisers to update a patient's will or other legal papers.
- Unique situations in which the visiting needs should be discussed with the on-site nursing director.
- Visits by anyone who is legally authorized to make decisions for the patient, whether by operation of a DPOA or conservatorship, or in the role of a surrogate decision-maker as recognized by the care provider team for patients who lack decisional capacity.
- Family members of patients who are in end-of-life care or experiencing an acute life-threatening event that makes them unlikely to survive the current hospital stay, in the judgment of the health care team.
- Patients and family members who would benefit from face-to-face caregiving instructions, either because of the complexity of the material or because of the needs of the patient or caregivers.

Information for Families of Patients in Our Hospitals

- Patients and their loved ones must designate a single individual to be the point of contact for all information and conversations with the health care team.
- The designated point of contact will be responsible for sharing information with family members or loved ones who should have this information.
- Some exceptions may apply, as determined by the health care team.