



## COVID-19 Visitor Restrictions & Guidelines

Effective April 5, 2021

**Thank you for your assistance and understanding to keep everyone safe!**

Effective immediately, visitor restrictions will be adjusted to accommodate our patients and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

### **Visitors for Outpatient, Ambulatory, Emergency Department, and Hospitalized Patients**

- Current patients and patients coming for an emergency department visit, hospitalization, outpatient procedure, or office visit will be permitted two (2) support persons in the building at a time given adequate social distancing policies can be met and personal protective equipment supply remains stable.
- Individual hospital visitation policies may differ in response to county-specific positivity and hospitalization rates.
- Visitation or support persons for office visits may vary by provider. Patients are encouraged to check with individual providers to ensure they are clear on their provider's policy.
- No visitation will be allowed by anyone under the age of 18 unless they are the parent or legal guardian of a pediatric patient.
- No visitation will be permitted for outpatient testing, such as non-invasive radiology testing, routine x-rays, and lab studies.
- No NICU visitation for confirmed COVID-19 mothers and partners while able to transmit COVID-19.\*
- No COVID-19 positive persons or symptomatic individuals awaiting test results will be permitted to visit patients.\*
  - The following visitation exceptions may apply:
    - "End of Life" situations.
    - For maternity patients, one (1) additional support person, such as a doula, will be permitted.
    - For minor maternity patients, a parent or guardian will also be permitted.
    - Minor patients (under 18 years of age) may have two (2) visitors in the emergency department and inpatient setting, but this is limited to only parents or guardians.
    - NICU patients will be allowed two (2) visitors for the duration of the patient's stay. Confirmed COVID-19 mothers and partners should not visit NICU infants while able to transmit COVID-19.
    - Patients who require assistance due to mobility, reorienting/confusion (patient safety), interpretation, court-ordered, or healthcare decision making may have one (1) additional assistance person.

*These guidelines are provided to our area institutions based on the overall COVID-19 incidence and prevalence in our 11-county area at this time. Please be advised that individual local institutions and their parent health care systems each have their unique clinical situations and their visitation policies may differ from our general assessment and recommendations.*

- Visitation for confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases (unless above criteria met) will be addressed based on clinical care guidance and available personal protective equipment to ensure visitation can occur safely.

### **Screening & Facial Covering/Mask Guidelines**

- All employees, staff, patients, and visitors will be screened for symptoms or exposure history.
- Screening is also being done at selected community ambulatory facilities.
- Visitors will be asked to leave the facility if they have had symptoms or a positive test in the past 10 days or exposures in the last 14 days.
- If the visitor is a driver for a patient and space is not available in the patient room or waiting room, the visitor may be asked to wait in their car until the patient's appointment is completed.
- Employees, staff, patients, and visitors must wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer, before and after leaving rooms and hospital buildings.
- Visitors should wear a mask when in the common areas of the hospital facility, such as hallways, public restrooms, gift shops, and dining areas.
- Visitors will be asked to wear their mask when a caregiver is present in a patient room.
- Patients and visitors may provide and wear their own mask or will be required to accept and wear the mask provided by the hospital facility.
- Masks or facial coverings must fully cover the nose and mouth.
- If a visitor refuses to wear a mask, that visitor may be asked to leave the facility.
- Exceptions may be made on an individual basis for those individuals who are unable to wear a mask due to health or disability issues.

The [CDC currently recommends](#) a symptom and time-based approach, reserving a test-based approach for rare circumstances. Immunocompetent persons may be considered non-infectious if:

- (a) afebrile for 24 hours without use of antipyretics,
- (b) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (or, in the case of asymptomatic at least 10 days have passed since the positive test), and
- (c) symptoms have improved.

For persons severely or critically ill with COVID-19, and for severely immunocompromised individuals, the length of time since symptoms first appeared can be extended to 20 days.

**COVID-19 visitor restrictions will be rescinded when the state of emergency declaration is lifted for the State of Ohio.**

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