

## MultiCare COVID-19 Hospital Visiting Policy

The safety of our patients and staff is MultiCare's greatest priority. We understand that visiting a loved one is a part of the healing process and have implemented visitor guidelines that balance the importance of patient visits with minimizing exposure.

**Restricted visiting will be maintained at all MultiCare hospitals until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our patients, staff and community.**

### Definitions:

- **Caregiver/support person:** an individual who is defined as someone deemed by the care teams to be necessary for optimal care of a patient
  - Example: a mother bringing a two-year-old child into a clinic or ED
- **Patient:** an individual receiving care
- **Visitor:** an individual coming into a facility to visit a patient who is already admitted or being seen
- **Clinical Facility:** a place where patient care is provided (a hospital, off-campus ED, urgent care, ambulatory clinic (MMA or RWC))

**All visitors, patients and caregivers/support people will be directed to specific hospital entrances and screened:**

- Age: no visitors 17 or under. Use current escalation process for end-of-life and other exceptions.
- Temperature: Assess for fever (>100.4 or if 65 or older, >99.6)
- Symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, headache, congestion, runny noses and GI symptoms, like nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

**Only asymptomatic visitors and caregivers/support people will be allowed into hospitals. Visiting hours are from 0800-2000 (8AM-8PM).**

- All screened visitors and caregivers will be banded upon entry to any of the MultiCare hospitals Wristband color will change daily.
- Each visitor or caregiver **must** wear a mask, maintain a 6-foot distance and practice hand hygiene while in the hospital.
- Visitors and caregivers should stay in the patient's room except when arriving at or departing from the hospital. Visitors may also pick up a patient's discharge prescription from the hospital's pharmacy.

### Outpatient clinics/services within a hospital facility

If patients have appointments for an outpatient clinic or service within a hospital facility, they will also be screened before they can enter. If they are symptomatic, we will help contact the clinic or service for further instructions. The clinic or service will develop a workflow for escorting and isolating the patient.

## Inpatient visitor and caregiver guidelines:

- Adult patients may have one visitor or caregiver in a 24-hour period. The visitor or caregiver may change every 24 hours.
- Patients 17 and under may have the same 1-2 parents/guardians or caregivers during their stay.
- Only one caregiver or support person will be allowed to accompany patients arriving for surgery or procedures (or two if patients are 17 or under)
- NICU patients will be allowed two visitors or caregivers in a 24-hour period
- Patients who are at the end of life (EOL) may have four visitors in a 24-hour period, with two visitors at a time. EOL status is determined by the care team and refers to a patient who is near death and not expected to survive the hospitalization.
  - Each unit manager has the discretion to limit the duration of the visit based on clinical considerations.
  - Visits from a minor are permissible if accompanied by a parent or guardian and approved by the care team.
  - One immediate family member visitor of EOL patient may spend the night, but no sleeping accommodations will be made.
- Patients who need a caregiver for safety because of their mental or developmental status or for their disability, such as hearing loss or vision impairment, may have one visitor in addition to their caregiver.
- Patients who require a home caregiver to be trained may have one visitor in addition to the caregiver, for the training session.
- Community-based care providers, who are involved in the care of the patient, may visit for support and care continuity in addition to the patient's one visitor.
- A member of the spiritual community may visit patients in addition to one visitor or caregiver.
- Family birth center patients will be allowed two asymptomatic support persons. A support person includes: a spouse or partner, a family member, a friend or a trained doula.
  - Two hours after delivery one support person will be able to remain at the bedside while the second support person will be required to leave. This is in accordance with the general one (1) visitor policy of the hospital.

- The one support person that remains will be the same individual throughout the entire hospital stay.
- Please see OB Visitor Policy document for more comprehensive guidance.
- **No visitors will be allowed in rooms of patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are being tested for COVID-19, except for:**
  - End-of-life patients – see above inclusions, but limit visits to an hour and no overnight stays.
  - Children ( $\leq 17$ -year-old) – one parent or guardian at a time with two in 24-hour period
  - Obstetric patients – will be permitted one asymptomatic support person and a doula. After delivery the support person may remain at the patient's bedside.
  - Visitors to COVID positive or PUI patients are required to wear full PPE when in the patient's room. The unit's nursing staff will provide instruction on donning and doffing the full PPE.
    - Remove the PPE when leaving the room, perform hand hygiene and then directly exit the hospital.