

NCH Healthcare System COVID-19 Hospital Visitation Policy

Updated 12/11/2020

Due to the current rise in COVID-19 positivity rates, the NCH Healthcare System is limiting hospital visitation hours to 12:00pm to 6:00 pm in general and critical care units. In support of patient-centered care, clinicians are encouraged to their best judgement in making exceptions for compassionate care reasons.

Visitation plans are developed in consideration of patient, staff, and public safety but also to meet the emotional and care needs of patients. NCH Healthcare System continues to collaborate with and follow the guidance of local, state, and government officials and will continue to review COVID-19 rates on an ongoing basis to determine the need for ongoing restricted visitation.

The following visitation guidelines remain in place:

Overall

- All visitors to the hospital must practice social distancing and will be required to complete a screening process and sanitize their hands with alcohol-based gel before visitation.
- No visitation is allowed for anyone who has respiratory symptoms including coughing, runny nose, fever, congestion, shortness of breath, chest pain with inspiration.
- Individuals who are ill, have fever, or have been exposed to COVID-19 should refrain from visiting.
- All visitors are required to wear a hospital supplied face mask at all times while on the campus. **Visitors who violate this policy may be asked to leave the facility.**
- To reduce the risk of spreading a contagious disease, COVID-19 patients or patients requiring airborne precautions are restricted to compassionate care visitation only.
- General visitation is limited to one visitor per patient at a time.
- Visiting periods should be brief and limited to approximately 1 hour.
- In addition to department specific exceptions noted below, additional exceptions may include support of patients with disabilities or for compassionate care at the discretion of the hospital leadership.
- Visitation is limited to the patient's room. Common gathering rooms such as family rooms and surgical waiting areas are not available. Visitors are not allowed in the cafeteria.
- No visitors under the age of 12.

Emergency Department

- One visitor will be allowed to be with the patient during the initial evaluation only.
- Exceptions may be made based on the acuity of the patient at the discretion of the physician/nursing staff. This includes:
 - Parents with children
 - End of life decision making/critically ill discussions
 - Special needs populations

ICU

- Exceptions may be allowed for compassionate care visitation and for participation in ICU rounding at the discretion of the Intensivist/nursing staff.

Birthplace and NICU

- OB Triage is limited to one visitor
- One support person is allowed in Labor and Delivery, Mother/Baby, and the Antepartum units.
- One support person may spend the night with maternity patients after delivery or on the Antepartum unit.

Pediatrics

- Each patient will be allowed two (2) designated visitors noted upon admission (over 18 years of age) can be with the patient, in their room, at all times. This also includes the Sedation, Outpatient Pediatric Oncology and the Pediatric Perianesthesia areas.

Ambulatory Procedure/Ambulatory Surgery

- One visitor to accompany adult patients for any appointment registration process
- Visitors accompanying patients for outpatient surgery must wait outside after registration process is complete.
- Visitor will be permitted to reunite with patient when ready for discharge. Discharge instructions can be shared with patient and visitor.
- Pediatrics: One parent may stay with their child above 12 years of age

COVID Patients:

Visitation to patients known or suspected COVID-19 should be restricted. Alternative mechanisms for patient and visitor interactions, such as video-call applications on cell phones should be considered. Consider visitation exceptions based on end-of-life situations or when a visitor is essential for the patient's emotional well-being and care.

In this instance, visitors should observe the following prior to entering any patients room:

- a. The family member should wash their hands thoroughly either with water or sanitizer gel, allow them to dry then be masked (N-95) gowned and gloved along with face shield to visit their loved one in the hospital.