

Temporary Visiting Guidelines and Restrictions for Harrison County Hospital and Physician Practices Updated March 17, 2021

Visitor restrictions are still in place to protect the patients and staff of HCH during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following revised General Guidelines will be effective May 20, 2020.

All Patients and Visitors:

- HCH will continue to limit access points for patients and visitors.
 - Patient and Visitor must wear a mask or face covering.
 - A mask will be given to those individuals who do not arrive with one.
- Each visitor will be given a visitor pass with the date and inpatient room number or if deemed necessary or to what outpatient department where they will be while visiting. The screening or registration personnel will complete the visitor log.
- No visitor log required for physician practices. The MA or provider will document in the patient chart the name of the visitor who accompanied the patient.
- Visitors will be instructed to keep their mask on the entire time they are in the hospital/clinic.
 - If the visitor cannot comply with wearing mask during the entire visit, they will be asked to leave.
- COVID-19 patients and those patients with a pending COVID-19 test will not be permitted to have visitors.
 - Compassionate visitation, including Clergy, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
 - Other means of patient/family communication including electronic means (face time, phone calls) will be facilitated by the staff and physicians.
- No children under the age of 16 are allowed to visit at this time.
- The visitor is strongly encouraged to stay in the patient room during the entire stay and to minimize time in hallways and common areas.
- Visitors are to minimize bringing in outside packages and materials to decrease contamination of contents.
- Guest meal trays are available for purchase from room service upon request.
- For any questions related to visitors, Administration-on-Call, Department Manager or House Supervisor may be consulted.

General Visitation Guidelines:

Inpatient:

Positive COVID-19/COVID-19 Tested Patients (either positive or pending tests):

- No visitors at this time unless for compassionate visitation.

Non-COVID-19 Inpatients/Non PUI (negative test or asymptomatic):

- One visitor, after appropriate screening, will be permitted to visit the non-COVID-19 inpatient.
- Visitors must wear a mask/face covering at all times.
- The visitor is strongly encouraged to stay in the patient room during the entire stay and to minimize time in hallways and common areas.
- Hours of visitation until further notice are 8a-5p 7 days a week.
- At 4:30 p.m., the House Supervisor will announce overhead that visiting hours are ending at 5 p.m.
- Brief visits of less than 2 hours are encouraged to decrease any potential exposure of patients or staff to possible infections.

Labor and Delivery:

Positive COVID-19/COVID-19 Tested Patients (either positive or pending tests):

- No visitors at this time unless for compassionate visitation.

Non-COVID-19/Non-PUI Maternity Patients (negative test or asymptomatic):

- Two visitors, designated by the mother, will be permitted in the labor and delivery unit.
- Two visitors at a time for post-partum patient, does not have to be the same two visitors designated for labor and delivery. The visitors still need to go through the screening table and will not be allowed if two visitors are in with the patient. We will still not allow "congregation" in the waiting areas.
- The visitors are strongly encouraged to stay in the patient room during the entire stay and to minimize time in hallways and common areas.
- The visitors must wear a mask/face covering when in the room with the patient and baby and at all times when leaving the patient room.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment should be in place at all times and the nursing staff at or before the initial visit should orient parents regarding the process.

Surgery:

Positive COVID-19/COVID-19 Tested Patients (either positive or pending tests):

- No visitors at this time unless for compassionate visitation.

Non-COVID-19/Non-PUI (negative test or asymptomatic) Patients Undergoing Surgery:

- One visitor will be allowed to accompany the patient entering hospital for surgery or other invasive procedures after being screened negative.
- Due to space limitations in waiting areas and to provide safety to all staff and visitors, once the patient has been taken back to surgery, the visitor will remain in the patient's assigned room or personal vehicle to wait until procedure is completed.

- Visitors must wear a mask/face covering at all times.

Emergency Department:

Positive COVID-19/COVID-19 Tested Patients (either positive or pending tests):

- No visitors at this time unless for compassionate visitation.
- Visitors must wear a mask/face covering at all times.
- One parent/visitor can accompany patient under age 18.
- One visitor may accompany a compromised/dependent patient who requires assistance.

Non-COVID-19/Non PUI (negative test or asymptomatic):

- One visitor, after appropriate screening, will be permitted to visit the non-COVID-19 inpatient.
- Visitors must wear a mask/face covering at all times.
- The visitor is strongly encouraged to stay in the patient room during the entire stay.
- Visitors or support persons are not allowed to sit in waiting rooms after patient has been assigned a room.

Other Diagnostic/Outpatient Areas:

No visitors at this time in the Outpatient Testing and Front Registration areas with the following exceptions:

- One parent may accompany patient under age 18.
- One caregiver may accompany dependent patient who requires assistance.
- One caregiver may accompany hospice or end-of-life patient.
- Any visitors that are allowed to accompany a patient will be screened prior to visitation which includes having a temperature taken and will be required to be masked.
- Visitors must wear a mask/face covering at all times.
- One visitor allowed for patient's that have scheduled maternity ultrasounds.

HCH Physician Practices:

No visitors at this time in the HCH Physician Clinics with the following exceptions:

- Both parents may accompany patient under age 18.
- When necessary, pediatric siblings may accompany parent/patient.
- One caregiver may accompany dependent patient who requires assistance.
- One caregiver may accompany hospice or end-of-life patient.
- Any visitors that are allowed to accompany a patients will be screened prior to visitation which includes having a temperature taken and will be required to be masked.
- Visitors must wear a mask/face covering at all times.
- The MA or provider will document in the patient chart the name of the visitor who accompanied the patient.

NOTE: The *Visiting Regulations* administrative policy and procedure still applies along with the above temporary visitation guidelines and restrictions.