



Memorandum

TO: Premier Health Leaders, Medical Staff, and Employees

FROM: Barbara Johnson, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Premier Health

DATE: November 17, 2020

RE: **Updated Visitor Restrictions and Guidelines to Take Effect on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7 am**

Effective on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7 a.m., due to rapid spread of COVID-19 in our region, visitor restrictions will be adjusted to accommodate our patients and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The following visitor restrictions will be in effect for **outpatient, ambulatory, emergency department, and hospitalized patients**:

- Patients will be permitted one (1) support person/visitor per day
- The support person/visitor will only be allowed to enter this site of care during visitor hours that are specified at each site.
- The support person/visitor may enter the hospital for emergency purposes during specified hours at each site through the emergency room
- Patients admitted to the hospital through the emergency room may be accompanied by a support person/visitor.
- Patients arriving for a procedure early in the morning with a support person/visitor, please follow signage and times posted at entrances.
- Overnight stays will be permitted under the following conditions:
 - The support person/visitor is present in the room by a time specified at each hospital.
 - The support person/visitor remains in the room at all times.
 - The support person/visitor wears a mask at all times.
 - If the support person/visitor leaves, they will not be able to return until a time specified by the hospital.
- No visitation will be permitted 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 unless the patient requires mobility, language, cognitive, or other assistance.
- Minor patients (under 18 years of age) may have two (2) support persons/visitors in the emergency department and inpatient setting, but this is limited to only parents or guardians.
- No support persons/visitors will be permitted for confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases except in circumstances involving “end of life” or hospice care. In these situations, visitation will be permitted one person at a time.

The following visitor restrictions will be in effect for **maternity patients**:

- For maternity patients, two (2) support persons, such as a partner and other (doula), will be permitted per day.
- For minor maternity patients, both support person(s) may be a parent or guardian.
- For maternity patients testing positive for COVID-19, only one (1) support person will be allowed during labor, without exceptions.
- The support person for the positive mother will be asked to leave the facility two (2) hours post-partum with the presumption that this individual is at high risk of being positive.
- NICU patients will be allowed two (2) visitors for the duration of the patient's stay. If the mother tested positive, she and support person/spouse/mate will not be allowed to visit the NICU until non-infectious by current CDC definition.
- Any maternity patient refusing testing will be treated as positive.

The following guidelines will be in place for visitors who are screened at points of entry at our sites of care, and for facial coverings and masks:

- No COVID-19 positive persons or symptomatic individuals awaiting test results will be permitted to visit patients.
- All visitors will be screened for symptoms or exposure history.
- Visitors will be asked to leave the facility if they have respiratory symptoms of unknown origin or exposure to anyone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- Visitors that refuse a COVID-19 screening will be prohibited from visiting to protect all patients and staff.
- Employees, staff, patients, and visitors must wash their hands, and/or use hand sanitizer, before and after leaving rooms and hospital buildings.
- Visitors must wear a mask or face covering at all times, including in patient rooms.
- 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, the 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.