

Temporary Visiting Guidelines and Restrictions for Harrison County Hospital and Physician Practices Beginning September 15, 2021

Visitor restrictions are being reinstated to protect the patients and staff of HCH during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following revised General Guidelines will be effective September 15, 2021 and will routinely be evaluated. The guidelines are necessary to limit exposure to our staff and patients so that we can continue to provide the best possible care to our patients and community.

All Patients and Visitors:

- HCH will limit access points for patients and visitors.
 - Designated entrances will be monitored by hospital personnel to provide screening of individuals entering for symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Patient and Visitor must wear a mask for the duration of the visit.
 - A mask will be given to those individuals who do not arrive with one.
 - If the visitor screens positive they will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to accompany 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.

General Visitation Guidelines:

Inpatient:

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

- The COVID-19 positive patient will be allowed one visitor per day for one two hour visit between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 - The following visitors will be permitted to visit the COVID-19 patient
 - i. A patient's family member.
 - ii. A patient's legal representative.
 - iii. The patient's designee.
 - iv. A member of the clergy.
 - v. An essential caregiver.
 - vi. Any other individual capable of meeting the patient's needs.
 - Compassionate visitation, including Clergy, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. The following are considered compassionate care situations:
 - i. An end-of-life situation, including hospice.
 - ii. A patient who is experiencing weight loss or dehydration and is in need of cuing or encouragement for eating or drinking.
 - iii. A patient who is experiencing emotional distress, depression, or grief.
 - iv. A patient who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a related cognitive disorder.
 - v. The patient is experiencing an acute health situation that requires immediate attention.
 - vi. The patient is undergoing surgery with general anesthesia.

- vii. The patient is experiencing a sudden deterioration in the patient's medical condition.
 - viii. The patient is unable to provide or does not know pertinent and critical medical information that would aid the health care professional in treating the patient.
- 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 will be required 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.
 - For any questions related to visitors, Administration-on-Call, Department Manager or House Supervisor may be consulted.
 - Visitors must wear PPE given to them by Harrison County Hospital staff at all times while in patient room and is required to perform hand hygiene before and after PPE is put on and taken off.

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 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 8:00 am – 5:00 pm 7 days a week.
- 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):

- One visitor, designated by the mother, will be permitted in the labor and delivery unit.

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.
- 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 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 at all times.

Emergency Department:

Positive COVID-19/COVID-19 Tested Patients (positive or pending tests, or positive Covid screen):

- No visitors at this time unless for compassionate visitation.
- Visitors must wear a mask 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 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 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:

- 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 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 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.