

COVID-19 Hospital Visitor Policy

For Washington State hospitals and health systems, the health and safety of our patients and community is our top priority. The COVID-19 is a novel virus that poses an unprecedented threat to our patients, especially those who are elderly, have underlying medical conditions and/or compromised immune systems. Washington State hospitals and health systems and the Washington Department of Health have partnered with WSHA to initiate heightened precautions by adopting standardized hospital visitor restrictions across our state. These restriction guidelines are informed by the [CDC 30-day mitigation strategies](#) and include:

Funnel and limit hospital entrance access (including vendors)

Screen all persons upon entry

- Screening tool:
 - Age: refer to your hospital policy for those under 18 years of age. You may want to consider exceptions for end-of-life care.
 - Monitor temperature of anyone requesting entry. Assess for temperature >99.6, coughing, sneezing, conjunctivitis, runny nose or trouble breathing.
 - Recent travel history to nations with high coronavirus activity as listed in the CDC's travel alerts.
 - Any contact with individuals confirmed or determined to be a "person under investigation" for coronavirus.

If any of these conditions are present, the individual will not be allowed to enter the hospital.

Keep documentation of names of approved visitors and the patient visited.

Clinical Care Units:

- Obstetric patients may have one partner and one birth support person accompany them.
- Nursery and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) patients may have one birth parent plus one significant other who must remain in the room for the duration of the visit.
- Patients who are at the end-of-life may have two visitors.
- Patients with disruptive behavior, where a family member is key to their care, may have one visitor.
- Patients who have altered mental status or developmental delays (where caregiver provides safety) may have one visitor.
- Minors under the age of 18 may have one visitor, either a parent or a guardian.
- Patients undergoing surgery or procedures may have one visitor who must leave the hospital as soon as possible after the procedure/surgery.
- Patients who have a scheduled hospital appointment in the laboratory or radiology, as well as those visiting the Emergency Department, may have one person with them.
- COVID-19 suites: Visitors do not enter patient rooms – use telecommunication; *Exceptions on case-by-case for end -of-life care or to reduce disruptive/unsafe patient behavior.*

Visitors must:

- Clean hands with sanitizer or soap and water upon entry/exit from hospital, patient care unit and patient room
- Wear badge or label indicating that they have been approved for the visit