

## **SIH Visitor Restrictions**

In an effort to protect our patients and employees, and as a proactive measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19, special visitor restrictions have been implemented at Southern Illinois Healthcare. These restrictions will be reviewed and modified as the COVID-19 situation evolves and infection prevention guidance is updated.

### **General Guidelines:**

- Visitors will have their temperature checked and complete a COVID-19 screening upon entry. Visitors will not be allowed to enter if they have fever, respiratory symptoms or exposure risk.
- Visitors under the age of 18 will not be permitted.
- Information will be provided to patients/families to support communication using remote telephonic or video methods as possible.

### **Visitors who are permitted must:**

- Wear a mask covering their mouth and nose
- Perform hand hygiene at point of screening and upon entry/exit of the patient's room
- Remain in the patient's room for duration of visit with no access to other areas in the hospital except for the nearest public restroom (i.e. cafeteria)
- Not enter the room during nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection or aerosol-generating procedures
- Notify the clinical care team if they develop signs or symptoms of illness during visit

### **Visitors will be permitted as follows for non-COVID patients:**

- Birthing Center patients may have one dedicated support person. In addition to the one dedicated support person, a certified labor doula is allowed to attend the labor, delivery, and two hour recovery that occurs on the birthing center
- Pediatric/NICU patients may have one parent/guardian at a time
- Patients with behavioral health, developmental delays or altered mental status for whom a family member or caregiver is integral to their care or safety may have one dedicated support person. Examples include but are not limited to: patients that are unable to communicate or comprehend their treatment
- Patients in the Emergency Department may have one dedicated support person
- Inpatient adults may have one visitor at a time and can rotate with others between the hours of 11 am – 7 pm
- Surgery/Procedure patients may have one dedicated support person for the duration of the surgical procedure
- Patients at end-of-life may have two visitors at a time and can rotate with others
- Other considerations made on a case-by-case basis when essential to ensure the emotional well-being and care of the patient. The house supervisor would clear this.

**COVID-19 positive and rule out patients are not allowed visitation except for the following circumstances:**

- Pediatric/NICU patients may have one parent/guardian at a time
- Patients with developmental delays for whom a family member or caregiver is integral to their care or safety may have one dedicated support person
- Patients at end-of-life may have two dedicated visitors
- Visitors in these areas will be provided the appropriate PPE

**COVID-19 positive or rule out patient visitation procedure:**

Provider	
	Speak with visitor to discuss potential risks associated with visiting COVID + patient
	Discourage if visitor is high risk for serious illness (older adults or those of any age with underlying medical conditions)
	Review s/s of COVID-19 and encourage to self-quarantine for 14 days post visit
	Call PCP or SIH Hotline if s/s develop
	Document visitor name in patient chart and note the above topics covered

Nursing	
	<p>Educate visitors on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriate PPE (procedure mask, faceshield, gown, gloves – unless AGP done recently then N95 with user seal check)</li> <li>• hand hygiene</li> <li>• respiratory etiquette</li> <li>• limiting surfaces touched</li> <li>• social distancing</li> <li>• review COVID s/s</li> <li>• restricted movement within facility (avoid going to other locations within facility)</li> <li>• Describe AGP and if an AGP is to be done, they will be asked to step out</li> <li>• If AGP while visiting nursing review that appropriate PPE is in place for visitor</li> </ul>
	Train & Supervise donning PPE
	Ideal to be present to remind visitor to not remove PPE or contaminate themselves
	Train & Supervise doffing PPE
	Re-education on COVID s/s, who to call if s/s develop (PCP or SIH Hotline)
	Encourage to self-quarantine for 14 days post visit