

## Hospital Visitation Guidelines

### Patient Visitation Update

NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island has been selected among 20 hospitals across the state to participate in the New York State Department of Health [COVID-19 Pilot Hospital Visitation Program](#) intended to reduce the stress and anxiety caused by the separation of patients and their loved ones during a hospitalization. The two-week pilot is designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure a safe environment for patients, families, visitors and health care workers, while permitting expanded, but still limited, visitation. Visitors will be advised to perform meticulous hand hygiene, be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and undergo symptom and temperature checks upon entering the hospital.

NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island is one of three hospitals in the NYC Health + Hospitals system along with other hospitals across the state to ease visitor restrictions and help New York State determine if hospitals can safely resume visitation. Following the two-week period, the State and the participating hospitals will evaluate the pilot and consider modifying or instituting the program statewide to all hospitals.

Beginning **Tuesday, May 26, 2020**, we will allow one visitor 18 years of age or older to visit a patient **between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. each day, Monday through Friday**. Similar to our earlier protocol, visitors will be screened for temperatures and COVID-19-related symptoms and issued masks and appropriate personal protective equipment as determined by the facility based upon CDC Guidelines and the Department of Health Recommendations. Visitors must enter the facility using the Ocean Parkway Entrance and will only be permitted to go to the patient's room, visit with the patient and then leave the hospital.

To ensure the safety of our patients, staff and visitors, NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island will ensure that:

- Visits are limited to four hours per day per patient, unless otherwise authorized by DOH, depending on the patient's status and condition.
- Visitors are limited to one person at a time unless at hospital's discretion a limited number of additional persons is determined to be appropriate to allow at the bedside
- Patients undergoing same-day procedures may be accompanied by a companion who may remain with the patient through the initial intake process and may rejoin the patient for the discharge process
- Visitors may not be present during procedures and recovery room except for pediatrics, childbirth, and patients with an intellectual, developmental, or other cognitive disabilities
- Visitors who fail to wear a face masks and other PPE will be asked to leave the facility
- Visitors shall be denied entry if they report significant COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior 14 days or have a temperature over 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit

- Once in the facility, visitors must remain in the patient's room throughout the visit except when directed by hospital staff to leave during aerosol-generating procedures or other procedures during which visitors are usually asked to leave
- Health care providers should thoroughly discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence with the visitor and, depending upon the patient's condition, the patient.
- The facility determines appropriate visiting hours
- All visitors must be greater than 18 years of age except in rare exceptions as determined by the hospital.

Separate from the pilot program, NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island continues to allow limited visitation to:

- **Patients in labor, delivery, and the remainder of the patients' admission.** For labor and delivery patients, the NYS Department of Health considers one support person essential to patient care throughout labor, delivery, and the immediate postpartum period. This person can be the patient's spouse, partner, sibling, doula, or another person they choose. In these settings, this person will be the only support person allowed to be present during the patient's care. Patients should speak with staff to ensure they fully understand the restriction in order to make a decision that is right for them.
- **Pediatric patients** For Pediatric patients, the NYS Department of Health considers one support person essential to patient care in the emergency room or during hospitalization. In these settings, especially with prolonged hospitalizations, families may designate two support people which alternate visitation. Only one support person may be present at a time. Patients should speak with staff and providers to ensure they fully understand the restriction. Individuals age 60 years or older, are not encouraged to be support people at this time due to increased risk of morbidity with COVID-19 infection.
- Labor and delivery and pediatric patient support people must be asymptomatic for COVID-19 and must not be a suspect or recently confirmed case. Hospital staff will screen the support person for symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, runny nose, muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell, GI symptoms (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) including a temperature check prior to entering the clinical area and every twelve hours after, and for potential exposures to someone with COVID-19. The support person must stay in the room.
- Patients for whom a support person has been determined to be essential to the care of the patient medically necessary), including patients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and patients with cognitive impairments including dementia
- Patients in immediate end -of-life situation.

## **Entrance Restrictions**

All visitors must enter Coney Island Hospital through either the Ocean Parkway Entrance. Patients seeking immediate medical attention will be directed to the Emergency Department.

In addition, all visitors will be screened upon entering the hospital and will be asked:

- Do you have a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, runny nose, muscle aches, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea?
- Have you had close contact with anyone who is a laboratory-confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) case?
- In the last 14 days, have you travelled from geographically affected areas, including China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea or locations in New York State south of Orange and Putnam counties, including New York City or Long Island?

Visitors who answer yes to any of these questions will not be permitted to enter the hospital.

***Thank you for your help in protecting everyone in our community.***

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For Our Vendors:

In order to protect our staff, visitors and workforce, access to our facilities by vendors and partners in financial and professional service firms will be limited while the situation unfolds. Access must be restricted to only those required to address an essential service repair and vendors who provide equipment and supplies for urgent and scheduled patient procedures.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your primary contact at Coney Island Hospital. Thank you for your continued service to Coney Island Hospital, our patients and our community.