

## **PURPOSE:**

Beginning May 6, 2021 NYC Health+Hospitals/Coney Island will expand visitation for family members and significant others. The hours of visitation will be from 10AM – 12PM and 4PM-6PM, Monday through Friday. We will allow up to 1 visitor at a time. Visitors are expected to respect and comply with these additional restrictions. These guidelines will remain in effect and will be modified to comply with New York State guidelines.

## **PROCEDURE GUIDELINES:**

- All visitors must adhere to the following policies and practices:
- Visitors must wear face coverings at all times.
- Visitors may be provided and asked to wear additional, appropriate personal protective equipment, depending on the disease the patient has, as recommended by the Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and hospital policy.
- Visitors must be advised regarding how to perform meticulous hand hygiene and how to wear the PPE and must adhere to such procedures.
- Visitors who fail to wear a mask and other PPE or fail to adhere to the visiting guidelines will be asked to leave the facility.
- Visitors must undergo symptom and temperature checks upon entering the facility and shall be denied entry if they report significant COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior 14 days or have a temperature equal to or greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit. If you have traveled outside the contiguous states as per Department of Health guidelines.
- Once in the facility, visitors must remain in the patient's room throughout the patient's visit except when directed by hospital staff to leave during aerosol-generating procedures or other procedures during which visitors are usually asked to leave.
- All visitors must be 18 years of age or greater, except in rare exceptions as determined by the hospital.

## **INPATIENT**

1. Visitation will be limited to 4 hours a day, per patient, unless otherwise required by the Department of Health, from 10am 12pm, 4p.m.-6p.m., depending on the patient's status and condition.
2. Visitors are limited to 1 person at a time, with the exception of designated support persons for laboring/post-partum mothers, pediatric patients, and imminent end of life situations.
3. Total time for visitation is not to exceed the 4 hours, unless otherwise required by the Department of health, with the exception of exposed, confirmed, or suspected COVID-19 patients.
4. With the exception of designated support persons, visitors to patients with exposure/confirmed/suspected COVID-19 should spend no more than 10 minutes at a time in a patient's room for their own health and safety; vaccinated/immune individuals are likely at lower risk and should act as designated visitors whenever possible. As an alternative, we encourage families/caregivers to FaceTime, or visit outside of the room to avoid exposure.
5. Visitors will be provided with and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New York State Department of Health.
6. Visitors will be advised how to perform meticulous hand hygiene and how to wear the PPE, and must adhere to such procedures throughout the visit.
7. Visitors who fail to agree to wear a face mask and other PPE or fail to adhere to the visiting guidelines will be asked to leave the facility.
8. Visitors MUST undergo symptom and temperature checks upon entering the facility, and shall be denied visitation if they report significant COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior 14 days or have a temperature over 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms include:

- ☐ Fever
- ☐ Cough
- ☐ Sore Throat
- ☐ Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- ☐ Runny Nose
- ☐ Muscle Aches
- ☐ New Loss of Taste and/or smell
- ☐ GI Symptoms (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea)

9. 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.
10. The care team will thoroughly discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence with the visitor and, depending upon the patient's condition, the patient.
11. The facility determines appropriate visiting hours; exceptions will be made as above. The facility reserves the right to change or further restrict visitation for public health, patient safety, and infection prevention reasons as needed.
12. All visitors must be 18 years of age or older except in rare exceptions as determined by the hospital.

#### **FOR EXPOSED, CONFIRMED, OR SUSPECTED COVID-19 INPATIENTS**

- Visitation for persons with exposure to COVID-19, or confirmed or suspected COVID-19 is not permitted, with the following exceptions:
  - In **Labor and Delivery and Post-Partum**, two support persons, including doula if requested, may accompany the patient throughout the labor, delivery, and the postpartum period, including recovery until discharge to home. The support persons can be the patient's spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or other persons of their choice.
  - **Pediatric inpatients** (17 years of age or younger) may have two designated support persons with them.
  - **Patients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and patients with cognitive impairments including dementia**, may designate one support person to remain with them through their hospitalization.
  - **In imminent end of life situations**, two support persons may be designated to remain with the patient. Patients nearing the end-of-life may have one visitor at a time for 10 minutes during regular visiting hours with an appointment. Approval of the attending physician is required.
- Visitors will not permitted if they have had COVID-19 exposure, symptoms, or fever in the preceding 14 days.
- A person who visits a patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 will make an appointment in Patient Relations (718-616-4164) prior to visiting.
- Visitors must understand that once they enter an isolation room to visit, they are potentially exposed to COVID-19, and thus, they must quarantine for 10-14 days and self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms per NYSDOH guidelines. COVID-vaccinated individuals are not considered exposed after visiting with a COVID-19 patient as long as they remain free of COVID symptoms.
- Once in the facility, visitors will be given information acknowledging the risks of entering an isolation room.
- With the exception of designated support persons for laboring/post-partum mothers, pediatric patients, and patients with intellectual/developmental/cognitive disabilities, visits will be limited to 10 minutes for individuals not known to be COVID vaccinated/immune.
- The visitor will be given personal protective equipment (PPE) on the unit, prior to entering the room with instructions on how to don and doff the PPE.

- Once they complete their visit, the visitor must exit the facility is advised not to re-enter for 10 days, as they have been exposed to COVID-19 and per NYSDOH guidelines must quarantine.
- A log will be kept in Patient Relations with the visitor's name and date of visit to adhere to isolation.

### **AMBULATORY SURGERY AREAS**

1. The care team will educate the patient on the visitation guidelines at the time of scheduling the procedure.
2. Pre-ambulatory testing staff will reinforce these guidelines during the preoperative phone call with the patient.
3. Patients undergoing same day procedures may be accompanied to the facility by a companion and that companion may remain with the patient through the initial intake process and may rejoin the patient for the discharge process.
4. After the intake process is completed, the visitor must provide their contact information with the pre-procedure staff and must leave the facility.
5. Visitors may not be present during procedures and recovery room except for pediatrics, childbirth, and patients with an intellectual, developmental, or other cognitive disability as listed in the revised visitation guidance.
6. Visitors are provided with and must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended by the Department and the Centers for Disease Control and prevention.
7. After completion of the procedure, the companion/parent will receive a phone call indicating the patient's status and anticipated time of discharge for pick up.

### **AMBULATORY SERVICE AREAS**

1. Expected Mothers can have their support person accompany them to a visit.
2. Pediatric patients (17 years of age and under) can have a support person.
3. Patients with intellectual/cognitive developmental disabilities can have a support person.
4. Support person will be permitted if necessary for the care of the patient.