

## Hospital Visitation Guidelines

### Patient Visitation Update

Beginning **Thursday, August 26, 2021**, NYC Health+Hospitals/Coney Island will be limiting visitation for family members and significant others in light of rising COVID-19 positivity in the area and the emergence of the delta variant. The hours of visitation will be from 1-5 PM daily, depending on the patient's status and condition. For most patients, one person at a time may visit during designated visiting hours. For patients admitted to Labor and Delivery including post-partum, pediatric patients, persons with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities and patients with cognitive impairments including dementia, and for immediate end of life situations, 2 visitors are permitted and may stay with the patient when desired. Visitors are expected to respect and comply with all policies and restrictions including wearing masks and other personal protective equipment as indicated. These guidelines will remain in effect and will be modified to comply with New York State guidelines. 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Delta variant, we will not be able to deliver packages to patients and we encourage all persons entering the facility to be fully vaccinated.

To safeguard the safety of 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 or as outlined by DOH policies.
- 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.
- Visitors will not be allowed to wait in the cafeteria or in any lobby areas. An exception may be made if someone is picking up a patient for a same-day procedure and the lobby is a designated waiting area. Visitors must go directly to the patient's room and immediately leave at the end of the visit.

- If the support person or visitor had a positive COVID-19 test and at least 10 days is afebrile (no fever) for at least 24 hours with improving symptoms, visitation can be permitted.

NYC Health + Hospitals/Coney Island criteria 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 two support persons 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, these persons 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. If the primary support person is not vaccinated or does not have proof of a negative PCR/antigen test (within 72 hours) result, the hospital is to offer PCR testing. If the primary designated support person is asymptomatic and COVID-19 positive, they will be provided appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), other appropriate safety precautions and asked to leave the hospital post-delivery. If the second designated support person or doula does not have proof of vaccination or does not have proof of a negative PCR/antigen test (within 72 hours) result, the hospital does not need to offer PCR testing and the support person/doula must leave the hospital.
- **Postpartum/antepartum units:** visitation on post-partum/antepartum units is 1 visitor at the bedside.
- **Pediatric patients** For Pediatric patients, the NYS Department of Health considers two support persons essential to patient care in the emergency room or during hospitalization. In these settings, especially with prolonged hospitalizations, families may designate two support people and the support persons may rotate. 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, may have one support person designated at all times, and one additional support person may be present at a time at the patient's bedside during designated visiting hours.

- For Patients in immediate end-of-life situations, 2 support persons or legal representative may be support persons with no restricted hours. Inclusion of more people may be permissible based on the circumstance.
- Procedures and surgery: Patients undergoing same-day procedures may be picked up by a companion, the companion cannot remain in a hospital waiting area until the patient is discharged. The visitor may be present for procedures/surgeries involving pediatrics, childbirth, end of life and patients with an intellectual, developmental and/or cognitive disability. Other situations as authorized by the hospital, depending upon the patient's status and condition, will allow a visitor. In routine circumstances, the visitor can be present at the end of the recovery period to pick up the patient and receive discharge instructions. Visitation duration and number of visitor will be limited at the facility's discretion based on capacity constraints, compassionate medical care considerations and/or other circumstances. The facility may suspend visitation at any time when warranted. Recommended hours of visitation will be determined by the facility.

- **Entrance Restrictions**

All visitors must enter Coney Island Hospital through 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?

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

For your convenience, use the QR code below to answer screening questions before entering the facility.



If you have any further questions regarding visiting please call Patient Relations at 718-616-4164.

***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.