



POLICY TITLE: OBHS Visitor Patient Screening and Masking Guidelines Coronavirus Disease

DEPARTMENTS: All Departments & Staff

CODE #: OBHS IC 1.0

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/9/2020

ORIGINATOR: Infection Control/Patient Care Services

DATE REVISED : 2/2022

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DATE REVIEWED:

PURPOSE:

Due to the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), in an effort to best protect yourself and many of whom may be particularly vulnerable to this infection.

POLICY:

The One Brooklyn Health System (OBH) Hospitals welcome visitors to the hospitals, including Emergency Rooms and Ambulatory Services. All visitors are required to follow the entry facility screening and masking requirements. The on-site screening and masking assistance will be available and provided to you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CLOTH FACE COVERINGS ARE NOT ALLOWED AND MUST BE EXCHANGED FOR A SURGICAL MASK OR KN95 UPON ENTRY INTO THE HOSPITAL

All visitors must show proof of being “up to date” with vaccination or a negative COVID PCR test taken within 72 hours of the hospital visit.

PROCEDURE:

1. All visitors/patients must wear a surgical mask that covers their nose and mouth at all time while in the hospital, regardless of visitor or patient vaccination status for influenza or COVID-19.
2. The OBH hospitals are offering “**a surgical mask**” upon all visitor/patient arrival.
3. Inpatient visitation open hours for adult patients are from 2:00pm to 8:00 pm daily. (4 hours allowed during visitation open hour’s period).
4. For visitors, **TWO** visitor(s) at a time (**12 years and older**) unless at hospital’s discretion a limited number of additional persons is determined to be appropriate to allow at the bedside.
5. Visitors with known significant underlying medical conditions will be discouraged from visiting; Visitors must undergo symptom screening and temperature checks upon entering the facility lobby. The visitation will be denied if visitor **reports:**
 - **Significant COVID-19 exposure during the prior 10 days.**
 - **Symptoms during the prior 10 days.**
 - **Have a temperature equal to, or greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.**
6. Visits are limited to no more than **four hours per day per patient**, unless otherwise authorized by the



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hospital, depending on the patient's status and condition.

7. **Total time for all visitors cannot exceed the four-hour maximum**, unless otherwise authorized by the hospital. However, the facility can determine the appropriate visiting hours within this requirement.
8. 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.
9. Visitors may not be present during procedures and in recovery room EXCEPT for pediatrics, childbirth, and patients with an intellectual, developmental, or other cognitive disability as listed in the DOH June 7, 2021 Updated Hospital Visitation Guidance.
10. Visitors are provided with and must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (i.e. surgical mask, isolation gown, gloves, face shield/goggles, etc.) as recommended by DOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
11. Visitors will be advised by the health care provider how to perform meticulous hand hygiene and how to wear the PPE, and must adhere to such procedures. The education/training will be documented in medical record.
12. Visitors who fail to wear a surgical mask and other PPE will be asked to leave the facility.
13. 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.
14. Health care providers should provide written information to visitors and/or discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor's presence with the visitor and, depending upon the patient's condition, the patient.
15. Name and contact information for visitors, the date(s) of their visits, and the name of the patient(s) visited are maintained in an electronic format by facility.
16. Additionally, hospitals are required to comply with the policies on allowing support persons for pediatrics, childbirth and patients with an intellectual, developmental, or other cognitive disability as listed in the [DOH June 7, 2021 COVID-19 Updated Hospital Visitation Guidance](#).
17. Facility may adjust visitation policies based on the prevalence of COVID-19 in a region or county based on the DOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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General visitation guidelines for all ADULT patients on inpatient units:

1. Medical-Surgical Units and all Adult Intensive Care Units Visiting Open Hours are from 4:00pm to 8:00pm (4 hours allowed during visitation open hour's period) and Exception
 - Visitors must be 12 years and older.
 - Two visitors at a time.
 - Exceptions for two visitors' visitation hours and limits may be granted for imminent (within 24 hours) end of life and/or patients with cognitive or developmental impairments or at the discretion of hospital leadership.
 - Visitors with respiratory and/or the following transmissible disease symptoms will not be allowed to visit:
 1. Fever
 2. Cough
 3. Trouble breathing
 4. Skin rash
 5. Vomiting
 6. Diarrhea
2. Maternal Child Units Visiting Open Hours are from 2:00pm to 8:00pm (4 hours allowed during visitation open hour's period) and Exception:
 - For Labor and Delivery, Two visitors allowed. One healthy support person (i.e. spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, sibling or other person of their choice) and a doula if requested may accompany the patient throughout labor, delivery, and the postpartum period, including recovery, until discharge to home.
 - Visitation on post-partum units is from 2:00pm to 8:00pm daily. Visitation is limited to **four hours** per day for up to two visitors at a time, unless otherwise approved by the clinical team.
 - Visitors with respiratory and/or the following transmissible disease symptoms will not be allowed to visit:
 1. Fever
 2. Cough
 3. Trouble breathing
 4. Skin rash
 5. Vomiting
 6. Diarrhea
 - **Visitation for infants transferred to the NICU – below "A".**



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General visitation guidelines for all PEDIATRIC patients on Inpatients Units and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

1. For ALL pediatrics inpatient units, including the Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICU), Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU):
 - Two adult parent/legal guardian or a surrogate visitors per pediatric and NICU patient are allowed at the bedside at a time between hospital visiting **open** hours from 2:00pm to 8:00pm (4 hours allowed during visitation open hour's period)
 - One adult parent/legal guardian or a surrogate visitor may be allowed at bedside 24 hours a day in all pediatric units. In pediatric units, one adult parent/legal guardian or a surrogate visitor may sleep overnight at bedside, **except in the NICU.**
 - Two adult parent/legal guardian or surrogate visitors can accompany a child to a procedure. One parent/legal guardian or a surrogate visitor at a time may be in the recovery room with a pediatric patient.
 - Two adult parent/legal guardian or surrogate visitors may be present during pediatric and childbirth procedures and with patients with an intellectual, developmental, or other cognitive disabilities, or end of life situations and in other situations as authorized by the hospital, depending upon the patient's status and condition.
 - Visitors with respiratory and/or the following transmissible disease symptoms will not be allowed to visit:
 1. Fever
 2. Cough
 3. Trouble breathing
 4. Skin rash
 5. Vomiting
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2. Behavioral Health Adult Inpatient Units Visiting Open Hours from 2:30pm-3:30pm and 6:30pm to 8:00pm
 - One Visitor may stay throughout the visitation period, and a second visitor may be allowed at the same time during this period if space and clinical needs permitted.
 - Visitors with respiratory and/or the following transmissible disease symptoms will not be allowed to visit:
 1. Fever
 2. Cough
 3. Trouble breathing
 4. Skin rash
 5. Vomiting
 6. Diarrhea

Emergency Room (ER):

- One support person visitor is permitted for Emergency Room (ER) patients for a maximum of **two hours** of visitation per day. Emergency care area may limit visitors to ensure staff and patient safety.
- Exceptions for visitor's visitation hours and limits may be granted for imminent (within 24 hours) end of life and/or patients with cognitive or developmental impairments or at the discretion of hospital leadership.
- Visitors with respiratory and/or the following transmissible disease symptoms will not be allowed to visit:
 1. Fever
 2. Cough
 3. Trouble breathing
 4. Skin rash
 5. Vomiting
 6. Diarrhea



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Ambulatory Care Services:

The One Brooklyn Health System (OBH) Hospitals outpatient practices visitor policy will be limited to ensure proper social distancing within the practices based on current government recommendations.

- Patients are allowed only one visitor at a time.
- Visitors must be 12 years of age or older.
- Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the previous 10 days will not be allowed into an outpatient practice.
- Anyone who has been a household contact or in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 over the past 10 days will not be allowed into an outpatient practice.
- During a visit, visitors: Must wear a surgical mask during their visit. Masks with valves are not permitted. A mask will be provided if needed.
- Visitors will be screened for symptoms, have a temperature check and be asked for contact information prior to entry. If needed, visitors will be given personal protective equipment (PPE) and shown the proper way to wear it.
- Visitors will be asked to perform hand hygiene upon entry to the facility.
- Social distancing rules will be applied and visitors may be asked to wait outside
- For same day surgical procedures patients, visitors may be asked to leave or remain in a hospital designated waiting areas depend upon hospital space availability after check-in process. Visitors will return when patient is ready for discharging pick up.
- Visitors with respiratory and/or the following transmissible disease symptoms will not be allowed to visit:
 1. Fever
 2. Cough
 3. Trouble breathing
 4. Skin rash
 5. Vomiting
 6. Diarrhea

Please note, the Hospitals may adjust visitation policies based on the prevalence of COVID-19 in a region or county to ensure the safety of patients, visitors and staff.