

# Aspirus Emergency System Wide Guideline COVID-19

## Visitor Restrictions

**Approved: April 20, 2022, at 8:00 am**

Aspirus is committed to keeping the community healthy and preventing the spread of infection. As a result of decreased COVID-19 transmission in our communities and continued downward trends, Aspirus will relax its current inpatient visitor guidelines. This is based on emerging science and CDC guidelines to support the patient's physical and or emotional wellbeing and to continue to minimize disease transmission.

### **Definitions and general considerations**

- Adult - Individual(s) 18 years of age and older.
- Pediatric - Individual(s) younger than 18 years of age.
- A visitor/**support person** is one who is essential to patient health (physical &/or emotional wellbeing), care giving, and/or decision making.
- Visitors/support person may visit patients who are currently positive for COVID-19 in accordance with the guidance below.
- Any **visitor/support person** who is currently experiencing or recently experienced any acute respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) and fever and/or those who are in quarantine or isolation are not permitted.
- All approved visitor/support persons over the age of 2 are required to wear a facemask at all times while in an Aspirus patient care facility.
- Visitor hours are defined as 8 am-6 pm unless exceptions are made for compassionate care and or sudden decline in patient medical stability of life-threatening impact.

**\*\*Exceptions and requests for accommodations will be considered and approved, on a case-by-case basis, by the attending provider and /or charge RN with escalation to the Administrator or Nurse Administrator on call. Any exceptions granted may be rescinded if they can no longer be reasonably allowed due to patient and or staff safety.**

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**Effective April 26, 2022, all patients may have support persons/visitors as follows:**

Hospital (Including Inpatient/Outpatient Surgery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to two visitor/support persons at a time.</li><li>• No unaccompanied minors 15 and under.</li><li>• A Doula may be considered in OB.</li><li>• In addition to the above the patient's spiritual advisor may visit.</li></ul>
Emergency Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One adult visitor/support person at a time.</li><li>• A Doula may be considered in OB.</li></ul>
Clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to two visitor/support persons.</li><li>• A Doula may be considered in OB.</li></ul>
Nursing Home/Assisted Living Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visitors/support person(s) and/or family members are allowed to visit in accordance with State guidance. Visitors should call the location to discuss.</li></ul>

### **Minimal visitor restrictions are in place except:**

- No visitor over the age of 2 will be allowed that is unable to wear a mask while in the facility.
- No visitor will be allowed if showing signs and symptoms of viral illness such as influenza or COVID-19.

### **Compassionate Care**

- There will be consideration for limited exceptions for COVID-19 positive patients or suspect patients regarding visitor/support persons during end of life, pediatric, labor and delivery, and disability situations.

### **Pediatric Patients (18 years of age or younger)**

- Two primary adult visitor/support persons per patient will be allowed in Inpatient, Surgical, Emergency Department, and clinic settings.
- Patient siblings are not allowed.

## **Guideline for Visitors to patients who are positive for COVID-19**

### *General Guidelines*

- Visitation is subject to the availability of personal protection equipment for visitors.
- Visitors must be 18 or older.
- The maximum in room visit time is limited to 1 visitor per day for 10 minutes in a 24-hour period.
  - The care team will work with you to determine visit frequency.
- Vaccination is highly recommended for visitors to COVID-19+ patients.
- Visits are not permitted during any aerosol generating procedure. Please refer to the Aerosol Generating Procedures guideline in the PPE Patient Placement Policy
- Authorized visitors must remain in the patient's room for the duration of the visit and always wear required PPE.

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- Additional time for discussion with the care team outside the isolation room is permitted and encouraged.
- Visitors will be escorted to the unit and must check in with a nurse prior to entering the COVID-19 patient care area.
- Visitors will be asked to sign a waiver and review guidelines for visitation.
- Personal protection equipment (PPE) will be provided prior to entering a patient's room. Visitors are required to utilize PPE provided by care team. This includes gloves, gown, facemask, and a face shield. The care team will assist with proper application and removal of PPE.
- At the end of the visit, visitors must exit the hospital.

*Visitors must meet the following conditions:*

- No current COVID-19 symptoms or positive COVID-19 test within the past 14 days.
- If close contact with the inpatient prior to admission, the visitor must wait 10 days since last contact.
- Visitors that do not adhere to visitation guidelines will be asked to quarantine for 10 days prior to any additional visits.

### **Special considerations**

- Exception to the above visitation guidelines may be given for Compassionate Care/End of Life, and pediatric situations. See Compassionate Care section.

Aspirus appreciates the cooperation of our visitors, patients, associates, and providers to support our infection control efforts and help minimize the spread of respiratory infections and COVID-19.

### **Process for Visitor Screening**

- All visitors will be screened for COVID -19 symptoms and exposure, symptoms of acute respiratory illness, or communicable infection. Visitors who screen positive will not be permitted.
- Masks/face coverings are required regardless of vaccination status.
- Visitors to non-COVID-19 patients can use the cafeteria, and physical distancing is encouraged.