



VENTURA COUNTY  
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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Owner: Todd Flosi, MD: Chief Medical Officer  
Policy Area: COVID-19  
References:

## Visitation During COVID-19 Pandemic

### Guideline

Ventura County Medical Center, Santa Paula Hospital and Ambulatory Care Clinics are limiting visitors for patients during the declared local health emergency due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. We encourage patients to keep in contact with their loved ones through virtual means, including video and/or phone communication. Staff will assist patient if needed.

### Procedure

#### General Visitation Process

- A. Visitation criteria will be based on risk level of community disease transmission.
  - 1. There will be no visitors allowed in the hospital except for:
    - 1. Parents of hospitalized children.
    - 2. Support person of a laboring woman.
    - 3. End-of-life care.
    - 4. Patient for whom a support person is medically necessary, including those with physical, intellectual and / or developmental disabilities and patients with cognitive impairment. If either the support person or the patient requests entry of the support person, it should be granted.
    - 5. One parent of a dependent young adult patient < 25 years of age, if patient requests it.
- B. All visitors must check-in at a point of entry and participate in a mandatory COVID-19 screening.
  - 1. Visitors with symptoms or a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit and higher will not be allowed to enter.
  - 2. VCMC and SPH are practicing universal masking during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that the visitor will keep his or her face covered during the duration of his or her visit, whether inside or outside the patient's room.
  - 3. Visitors who have successfully completed the COVID-19 screening and met all criteria will be issued a wristband, be identified as having cleared the screening process, and then should proceed directly to their destination.
  - 4. No visitors under the age of 18 shall be allowed unless they are parents of hospitalized children, or the significant other of a laboring woman.

5. Service animals will continue to be allowed entrance.
- C. Visitors are restricted to patient rooms, and should only be in the lobby, waiting areas, common spaces as they move to and from the room they are visiting. Visitors should not go to the cafeteria. A guest tray may be ordered for visitors. Visitors should be encouraged to use the bathroom within the patient room. If the patient room does not have a bathroom, visitor should be directed to the public restroom designated for visitors within the unit .
- D. Visitors of COVID-19 positive patients will be asked to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while in the patient's room, including: gown, gloves, eye protection, and a mask. The mask worn by a visitor may be a surgical mask, an N95 respirator with a qualitative fit check, a powered air purifying respirator (PAPR), or a 3M 6800, as appropriate. Visitors will be asked to complete a 14 day quarantine after visitation. Physicians should document that he or she has discussed the potential risk of infection associated with visitation, and that visitor(s) has acknowledged that risk, and has chosen to proceed with visitation.

## **Ambulatory Care Clinics**

- A. Ambulatory Care Clinics have a "no visitor" policy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Exceptions will be made for minors and those who require a caregivers assistance.
- B. All other exceptions will need approval from the clinic manager, and only to facilitate the understanding and coordination of care for complex medical diagnoses.

## **Labor & Delivery and OB Postpartum:**

- A. Only one adult visitor per patient in labor/new mother.
  1. Single visitor may be less than 18 years old if significant other to the laboring mother.
- B. An asymptomatic or known COVID-19 negative laboring patient may also have a trained doula accompanying her, in addition to her support person, if prior arrangements have been made with the hospital and the doula complies with hospital PPE and infection control guidelines. The hospital may ask for proof of certification from the doula.
- C. If the laboring / new mother is COVID-19 positive, she shall be limited to one visitor, who is not ill. General visitation guidelines, as noted above, apply.

## **NICU, Pediatrics and PICU:**

- A. The family of each pediatric patient is allowed to name up to two primary caregivers for the duration of the hospital stay.
  1. The caregivers should be parents or legal guardians and must be in good health and cannot change during the patient's hospitalization.
  2. Both primary caregivers may be present in the hospital at the same time.
- B. COVID-19 positive pediatric patients will be allowed only one designated caregiver who should stay with the patient in their room during that patient's stay.

## **End-of-Life Care**

- A. Two visitors are allowed at a time for COVID-19 negative patients. Other visitors need to remain outside of the facility prior to and after visitation.

- B. Unless otherwise approved by the House Supervisor, the Administrator on Duty, or the on-call Chief Medical Officer, COVID-19 positive patients will be allowed a single visitor. Visitors to COVID-19 positive patients are to remain outside the facility prior to and after visitation.
1. Visitors who have previously tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and have been cleared by public health to be beyond the need for transmission based precautions (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>) may be allowed in the patient's room. However, given potential risk of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection, we recommend that the visitor wear PPE (as above). In addition, the physician should document in the patient's medical record conversations with the visitor regarding risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection from in-room visitation.
  2. Visitors who have previously tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, and have NOT been cleared by public health to be beyond the need for transmission based precautions (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>) will be considered potentially infectious, and should NOT be allowed in the facility.
- C. Visitors to patients that are more than 10 days out from symptom onset for mild/moderate COVID-19, or 20 days out for critically ill or immunocompromised patients with COVID-19, should still be offered PPE. In addition, the physician should document in the patient's medical record conversations with the visitor regarding risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection from in-room visitation.
- D. All requests for exceptions to these rules should go to the House Supervisor or the Administrator on Duty.

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## Attachments

No Attachments

## Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
PolicyStat Administrator	Jason Arimura: Director-Pharmacy Services	1/6/2021
Policy Owner	Todd Flosi, MD: Chief Medical Officer	1/6/2021