

SIH Visitor Restrictions

In an effort to protect our patients and employees, and as a proactive measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19, special visitor restrictions have been implemented at Southern Illinois Healthcare. These restrictions will be reviewed and modified as the COVID-19 situation evolves and infection prevention guidance is updated.

General Guidelines:

- Visitors will complete a COVID-19 screening upon entry. Visitors will not be allowed to enter if they have fever, respiratory symptoms or exposure risk.
- Visitors under the age of 18 will not be permitted.
- Information will be provided to patients/families to support communication using remote telephonic or video methods as possible.

Visitors who are permitted must:

- Wear a mask covering their mouth and nose
- Perform hand hygiene at point of screening and upon entry/exit of the patient's room
- Remain in the patient's room for duration of visit with no access to other areas in the hospital except for the nearest public restroom (i.e. cafeteria)
- Not enter the room during nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection or aerosol-generating procedures
- Notify the clinical care team if they develop signs or symptoms of illness during visit

Visitors will be permitted as follows for non-COVID patients:

- Birthing Center patients may have two dedicated support persons at a time. In addition to the two dedicated support persons, a certified labor doula is allowed to attend the labor, delivery, and two hour recovery that occurs on the birthing center. One support person and either a doula or photographer are allowed in the operating room during surgical delivery if approved by the provider and anesthesia.
- Pediatric/NICU patients may have two parents/guardians at a time
- Patients with behavioral health, developmental delays or altered mental status for whom a family member or caregiver is integral to their care or safety may have one dedicated support person. Examples include but are not limited to: patients that are unable to communicate or comprehend their treatment
- Patients in the Emergency Department may have one dedicated support person. Visitors are not permitted in the ED waiting room unless the patient is unable to make decisions for themselves.
- Inpatient adults may have one designated visitor each day between the hours of 8 am – 8 pm. The designated person can change day to day.
- Surgery/Procedure patients may have one designated support person for the duration of the surgical procedure
- Outpatients in the hospital setting may have one designated visitor
- Outpatients in a clinic setting can be allowed one visitor if requested. Please allow patients to bring the support they need, but remember we continue to encourage social distancing and space is more limited in these smaller settings.
- Patients at end-of-life may have up to four visitors at a time and can rotate with others
- Patients may receive religious services from the religious leader of their choice at any reasonable time if it can be provided without disruption to care. Religious leaders will not count as the patient's visitor.
- Other considerations made on a case-by-case basis when essential to ensure the emotional well-being and care of the patient. The house supervisor would clear this.

COVID-19 positive and rule out patients are not allowed visitation except for the following circumstances:

- Pediatric/NICU patients may have two parents/guardians at a time
- Birthing Center patients may have one dedicated support person. In addition to the one dedicated support person, a certified labor doula is allowed to attend the labor, delivery, and two hour recovery that occurs on the birthing center.
- Patients with developmental delays for whom a family member or caregiver is integral to their care or safety may have one dedicated support person
- Patients at end-of-life may have up to four dedicated visitors
- Patients may receive religious services from the religious leader of their choice at any reasonable time if it can be provided without disruption to care. Religious leaders will not count as the patient's visitor. Religious leaders will not need to quarantine post visit if wearing the appropriate PPE.
- Visitors in these areas will be provided the appropriate PPE
- COVID positive patients may have one visitor between the hours of 2 pm – 4 pm, if the visitor has recovered from COVID in the last 90 days or are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Fully vaccinated is defined as two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. These visitors will not need to self-quarantine for 14 days post visit.

COVID-19 positive or rule out patient visitation procedure:

Provider	
	Speak with visitor to discuss potential risks associated with visiting COVID + patient
	Discourage if visitor is high risk for serious illness (older adults or those of any age with underlying medical conditions)
	Review s/s of COVID-19 and encourage to self-quarantine for 14 days post visit
	Call PCP or SIH Hotline if s/s develop
	Document visitor name in patient chart and note the above topics covered

Nursing	
	Educate visitors on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• appropriate PPE (procedure mask, faceshield, gown, gloves – unless AGP done recently then N95 with user seal check)• hand hygiene• respiratory etiquette• limiting surfaces touched• social distancing• review COVID s/s• restricted movement within facility (avoid going to other locations within facility)• Describe AGP and if an AGP is to be done, they will be asked to step out• If AGP while visiting nursing review that appropriate PPE is in place for visitor
	Train & Supervise donning PPE
	Ideal to be present to remind visitor to not remove PPE or contaminate themselves
	Train & Supervise doffing PPE
	Re-education on COVID s/s, who to call if s/s develop (PCP or SIH Hotline)
	Encourage to self-quarantine for 14 days post visit