

Visitor Guidelines and Risk Screening for Coronavirus

Purpose: *Visitation procedures are designed for the safety of all patients and employees in the interest of limiting exposure to respiratory illness and containment of the COVID-19 virus.*

Procedure: Upon entry to the building, **all** visitors will be screened for respiratory symptoms as well as exposure or travel to a high-risk country.

Visitation Guidelines

- Visitors with a negative screen are permitted to visit.
- Visitors with a negative screen but positive travel or exposure history are permitted to visit and must wear a mask at all times.
- Visitors with a positive screen for symptoms will not be permitted to enter the building.
- Visitors accompanying patients who have screened positive must wear a mask as well the patient.
- The following visitors will not be permitted entry into the building:
 - Visitors with any positive respiratory symptoms (fever, cough, or sore throat)
 - Visitors who refuse to mask when accompanying a patient who has screened positive

Patients Under Investigation (PUI) Visitation Guidelines

PUIs may be roomed in the ED or the inpatient areas with these guidelines applicable regardless of location.

- Visitation is discouraged to limit the risk of exposure to others.
- Alternative communication tools are encouraged for visiting with family and friends (tablets, phones, etc.)

Exceptions to Visitation Guidelines

Exceptions to the restricted visitation guidelines may be made in cases of palliative care, vulnerable patient populations, or other identified ethical circumstances in recognition of the mission of Baptist Health System.

- Visitation restrictions should remain flexible in the interest of the family and special need situations such as the following:
 - The patient is at end of life.
 - The patient is considered to meet the criteria for a vulnerable population.
 - Family presence promotes the patient's well-being and/or care.



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