

Visitation During COVID-19

Updated: 4/14/2020

Purpose:

To help us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for healing. Effective immediately, all routine visiting is being suspended until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our patients, staff and community.

Adherence to these criteria will ensure consistent practices in providing a safe environment for LACDHS patients, visitors, and staff and minimize exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 disease.

Procedure:

Prior to entering the building, all patients and visitors (including individuals entering for business purposes) will be asked the following COVID-19 screening questions:

- 1) In the last 24 hours, have you had a temperature of $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ and/or thought you had a fever?
- 2) In the last 24 hours, have you had cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
- 3) Have you had any contact with someone who had the confirmed case of coronavirus?

If a visitor fails any of the three questions, they will not be permitted to enter the building, regardless of whether they fall into one of the exceptions listed below.

All visitors and patients on site for clinic or ancillary service visits, must wear a facility-provided mask at all times while in the hospital/clinic building.

Visitors will not be permitted for positive or suspect COVID patients, regardless of clinical circumstances or location in the hospital. Hospital staff will attempt to facilitate phone or video communication between patients and families, to the extent feasible. The only exception to this prohibition is pediatric inpatients (under 18 years of age), who will be allowed one parent/guardian at a time and the rules listed below for pediatric patients will apply.

This guidance does not apply to [paramedics or patient transportation staff arriving to a facility to pick-up or deliver a patient.](#)

The exceptions to the visitor restriction include:

Adult Inpatient Visitors

- Patients who are at the end-of-life (e.g., comfort care) may have 1 visitor per day, for up to two hours. Visitors must remain in the room for the duration of the visit and should leave the hospital immediately after the visit is completed.

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- Patients with disruptive behavior, altered mental status, or developmental delays, where a caregiver's presence helps with the patient's care may have 1 visitor.
- Obstetric patients may have 1 partner/birth support person accompany them for the duration of the delivery; once the baby is delivered, the visitor should leave the hospital. Visitors will not be permitted in post-partum.

Pediatric Inpatient Visitors

- Nursery and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) patients may have 1 birth parent at time, who must remain in the NICU throughout the visit.
- Minors under the age of 18 may have 1 visitor at a time, who is the parent or guardian, who must always remain in the room during the visit.
- Parent/guardian overnight stays will be permitted at the discretion of the clinical team.

Outpatient/Ancillary Patients

- A single Parent/Guardian bringing a minor(s) under the age of 18, to an outpatient visit will be allowed
- Outpatient chemotherapy/infusion patients may have 1 visitor with them
- Patients who have a clinic, laboratory, or radiology appointment may have 1 person with them
- Patients visiting the Emergency Department may have 1 person with them

Other

- Vendors doing equipment repair/maintenance or bringing equipment to areas for provision of patient care services (e.g., Operating Rooms) and must follow facility vendor screening process
- Media
- Union Representative
- Regulatory Evaluators