

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Visitor Guidance Based on COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions
Rate



Audience: Providers/Colleagues

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COVID-19 Response Team Owner: Clinical and Operations

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UNIVERSAL Guide

What's updated: Edited reference to reflect current CDC metric to weekly rate of new COVID-19 admissions for hospitals by county of location.

Important: Persons should not visit if they have any of the following conditions within 10 days of the date of visitation: 1) tested positive for COVID-19; 2) close contact exposure to someone with COVID-19; or 3) experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Table 1. Summary of Key Elements of Visitation Policies by COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions Rate per 100,000 Population and Setting

Precautions	COVID-19 New Hospital Rate / 100,000 population	
Acute Care:	Not High (low or medium)	High
Number of visitors / patients	No specified limit -Follow ministry's pre-pandemic policies	2 per patient
Visitors for PUI* or in isolation precautions for COVID-19	2 visitors per patient. Ages 18 years or older recommended	
Visitors for Compassionate care need (e.g., patient nearing end of life or placed under hospice care)	No restrictions on either number of visitors or age of visitors	
Masking (source control)	Required for anyone with symptoms; or tested positive for COVID-19 or with close contact exposure within prior 10 days	Required
Physical distancing	Optional	Required
Use of retail space (e.g., Pharmacy, coffee shop, cafeteria, gift shop etc.)	Permitted	
TH Medical Groups including free-standing Ambulatory care Independent/Assisted Living PACE	Permitted	Limit to those essential to support patient's physical or emotional well-being and care
THSC Skilled Nursing Facilities	Permitted	

Trinity Health Visitation guidance should be followed unless state/local/federal requirements apply, at which time the ministry should follow whichever is more restrictive.

* Person under investigation
Who Should Not Visit:

CDC recommendations are that visitors should not visit patients in healthcare settings if they have any of the following on or within the 10 days of the planned day of visit:

- a positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2 or
- symptoms of COVID-19, or
- close contact exposure to someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection

Additional Visitation Guidance:

- The ministry will determine visiting hours.
- Ministry may determine necessary additional visitation restrictions during times of contingent or crisis staffing conditions
- Visitors should be provided instructions and any additional PPE where applicable, e.g. patient they are visiting is under a category of transmission-based precautions
- **Patients under investigation for or in isolation precautions for COVID-19:**
 - Visit should occur in single occupancy rooms. If the patient is under isolation in a multi-occupancy room the care team should encourage and support visiting at times when the other patient is not in the room or have the visit in a designated area outside of the patient room where others are not present.
 - Instruct visitor and patient that it is safest if both the patient and visitor(s) wear source control (facemask) and physically distance as much as possible during the visit

Options to Consider when In-Person Visitation is not advised or is not possible:

- Offer alternative means of communication for people who would otherwise visit, such as virtual communications (phone, video-communication, etc.).
- Assign staff as primary contact to families for inbound calls and conduct regular outbound calls to keep families up to date.

Skilled Nursing Facilities Within Trinity Health Senior Communities

- Visitation is determined by CMS regulation. On 5/8/23 CMS issued updated regulations that address visitation in skilled nursing facilities (SNF). Summary requirements are as follows:
 - Facilities must allow indoor visitation at all times and for all residents as permitted under these updated regulations. While previously acceptable during the PHE, facilities can no longer limit the frequency and length of visits for residents, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits.
 - Although there is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time, visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents.
 - See also *Nursing Home Visitation – COVID-19* revised, 5/8/23 under references for additional details.

References:

[Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) | CDC](#)

[Nursing Home Visitation -COVID-19 \(REVISED\) QSO-20-39-NH REVISED 05/08/2023 \(cms.gov\)](#)