



Restricted Visitation Policy at Virginia Hospital Center (VHC)

As situations continue to change we are monitoring our COVID environment to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. This restricted visitation policy will go into effect on April 3, 2021:

General Guidance:

- All visitors must check-in and be screened upon entry to the facility.
- Approved visitors shall wear a VHC issued mask at all times and follow proper infection prevention practices throughout the duration of their visit.
- Patients are strongly encouraged to wear a mask, particularly during visitation, if it can be tolerated.
- No visitors under the age of 18 will be permitted.
- Visitation hours will be from 2pm-8pm daily.

Restricted Visitation Policy for Non-COVID Patients:

- Admitted patients:
 - 2:00pm – 5:00pm patients in inpatient areas may have 1 approved (approval documentation required for entry).
 - 5:00pm – 8:00pm patients in inpatient areas may have up to 2 visitors.
- Obstetric patients may have 1 partner/support person during their admission and may also have 1 midwife/doula support person for the duration of labor and delivery.
 - Antepartum and postpartum patients may have siblings of baby visit from 2:00pm – 8:00pm.
- Pediatric patients may have up to 2 parents/legal guardians accompany them during their visit or admission.
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) patients may have 2 parents/legal guardians or caregivers during their admission.
- Patients with disabilities may have one designated support person/legal guardian (DSP) during their visit or admission throughout all care settings during visiting hours (other reasonable accommodations may be approved according to the needs of the patient provided the accommodations comply with all infection prevention policies. (A DSP will not count as the patient's visitor, but must have approval documentation to enter if they arrive between 2:00pm – 5:00pm.)
 - A support person may be a family member, caregiver, disability service provider, or other individual knowledgeable about the management or care of the patient who is authorized to assist the patient in making decisions.

- Visitors will be required to remain in the patient room during the visit, and will not be permitted to congregate in the hallways, hang out at the nurse station or the elevator areas.
- Patients having outpatient procedures (e.g., surgery, invasive testing, cardiac cath, radiology, etc.) will be allowed 1 visitor during their visit who must remain with the patient or in the designated waiting areas.
- Patients in the Emergency Department (ED) may have 1 visitor during their visit who must remain with the patient or in the designated waiting area.
- End-of-life situations (to be determined on a case-by-case basis).
- Patients may receive religious services from the religious leaders of their choice at any reasonable time if it can be provided without disruption to care. (Religious leader will not count as the patient's visitor.)
- Nurses will need to enforce these rules, if you need assistance with visitors who are unwilling to comply, contact Security for assistance.

Visitation Policy for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19:

- COVID/PUI patients will have restricted visitation. Exceptions may be made for end-of-life circumstances, and other extraordinary circumstances as approved on a case-by-case basis by clinical leadership.
- Patients may receive religious services from the religious leaders of their choice at any reasonable time if it can be provided without disruption to care. (Religious leader will not count as the patient's visit.)
- Patients with disabilities may have one designated support person/legal guardian (DSP) during their visit or admission throughout all care settings during visiting hours (other reasonable accommodations may be approved according to the needs of the patient provided the accommodations comply with all infection prevention policies. (A DSP will not count as the patient's visitor but must have approval documentation to enter between 2:00pm – 5:00pm.)
 - A support person may be a family member, caregiver, disability service provider, or other individual knowledgeable about the management or care of the patient who is authorized to assist the patient in making decisions.
- All designated support persons, guardians, religious leaders and other approved visitors for patients on precautions for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 must be educated by VHC nursing staff on the use of required PPE, observed with donning and doffing by a staff member, comply with infection prevention practices, must remain with the patient or in a designated waiting area, avoid any communal areas in the Hospital, and must be educated on the risks of visitation and the visitor must accept such risks.
- VHC Infection Prevention must be notified of all support persons, guardians, religious leaders and other approved visitors for patients who are suspected or confirmed for COVID-19.
- In the event that there is an emergent situation regarding visitation of a confirmed COVID-19 patient and PPE was not donned appropriately, the visitor will be advised to quarantine for 14 days

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance as we ensure a safe environment for our patients, staff and visitors.