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<b>Document Owner(s):</b> Cindy Sayre, Jerome Dayao, Deb Gussin, Jenny Brackett, Richelle Bagdasarian		
<b>Web Address (URL):</b> <a href="https://one.uwmedicine.org/coronavirus/COVID19%20Policy%20Statement%20Library/Visitor%20restriction%20policy.pdf">https://one.uwmedicine.org/coronavirus/COVID19%20Policy%20Statement%20Library/Visitor%20restriction%20policy.pdf</a>		

**\*\*\* Click Here To Access The HMC Interim Visitor Policy \*\*\***

[https://hmc.uwmedicine.org/BU/InfectionControl/DOCUMENTS/HMC Visitor Policy.pdf](https://hmc.uwmedicine.org/BU/InfectionControl/DOCUMENTS/HMC%20Visitor%20Policy.pdf)

## Visitor Restriction Policy Inpatient Setting

UW Medicine has implemented limited visitation while COVID-19 remains a significant public health threat to patients and communities.

- Visitors will be screened at specified entry points for symptoms<sup>1</sup> consistent with COVID-19.
- Only asymptomatic visitors will be allowed into hospital facilities.
- All individuals over 2-years of age entering the hospital must wear a mask covering the mouth and nose at all times in accordance with the [Required and Extended Use Masking Policy](#) and [Masking Accommodation Policy](#).
- Visitors cannot have pending COVID-19 tests that were taken due to symptoms or following exposure to a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Visitors cannot have tested positive and still be within their isolation period in accordance with the [Return to Care as an Outpatient Policy](#) or been in contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
- Visitors must stay in the patient's room except when arriving or departing the facility or to obtain food or beverages during an extended duration visit.
- To maximize safety, visitors may not consume food or beverages in lobbies, waiting areas, shared patient spaces (patient rooms with more than 1 patient or patient care spaces separated by curtains), or when healthcare workers are present in the patient care space.
- Approved visitors are encouraged to avoid eating and drinking in patient rooms unless necessary for an extended duration visit. If eating and drinking must occur, timing should be coordinated with the care team to maximize safety. Visitors must maintain a distance of 6 feet or greater from patients when eating or drinking.
- Visitor restriction policy applies to UW Medicine employees who have family members in the hospital.

**Policy: Each patient may have 1-2 visitors. Visitation will be limited by facility visiting hours and policies.**

- Intrapartum patients may have 2 asymptomatic support persons with them during labor and delivery (maximum of 2 visitors).
  - Both visitors are expected to remain at bedside and masked at all times.
  - Visitors may eat and drink in the patient's room, keeping at least 6 feet apart, when healthcare team members are not present in the patient room.
  - Rare exceptions to these visitation restrictions require approval by OB leadership.
  - See also: [UWMC Newborn and NICU Visitation Policy](#).
- Community based care providers, including those who provide spiritual care, who are involved in the care of the patient may visit for continuity of care in addition to the 1-2 visitors.

<sup>1</sup> Symptoms: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

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- Shared patient spaces (patient rooms with more than 1 patient or patient care spaces separated by curtains) may only have 1 visitor.
- Patients undergoing surgery in the operating room may only have 1 visitor in the OR waiting room on the day of surgery.
- Minor children under the age of 12 must be within arm’s reach of a responsible person at all times. A minor child aged 12 to 16 should not be left alone in the care of an inpatient.
- **No other visitors will be allowed in the medical center at this time. Any exceptions to this policy must be cleared by the clinical area Administrator, Director, AOC or Chief Nursing Officer.**

**No visitors will be allowed in rooms of Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) or COVID-19 positive patients except in the following circumstances:**

- **Patients who are at the end-of-life, regardless of COVID-19 status, may have 2 visitors at a time.**
  - End-of-life is defined as a patient who is highly likely to die in the coming days to weeks during the current admission and is not restricted to patients on a comfort care pathway.
  - Each unit manager has the discretion to limit the duration of the visit based on the clinical scenario.
  - Visits from a minor are permissible if accompanied by a parent or guardian and approved by the care team.
  - Any exceptions to this policy must be cleared by the clinical area Administrator, Director, AOC or Chief Nursing Officer.
- **OB COVID-19 positive patients:**
  - Intrapartum patients who are COVID-19 positive at UWMC campuses may have one asymptomatic visitor with them when the following conditions are met:
    - Visitor will be screened by professional nurse for wellness prior to approval to remain with patient; visitors who develop symptoms must leave.
    - Visitor remains at bedside and wearing appropriate PPE (as posted outside the patient’s room).
    - Visitor will not have the ability to come and go; visitor will remain in the mother's room for the entirety of the mother's hospital stay, or if they leave, will not be able to return.
    - If a patient declines COVID testing, visitor restrictions will be the same as for those patients who are COVID-19 positive.
    - Exclusions for visitors of COVID-19 positive mothers:
      - COVID-19 positive pregnant antepartum patients may not have a support person.
      - COVID-19 positive pregnant patients may not have a support person in the operating room for a Cesarean Delivery.
  - See also: Newborn and NICU Visitor Restriction Policy

**No other visitors will be allowed in the medical center at this time. Any exceptions to this policy must be cleared by the clinical area Administrator, Director, AOC or Chief Nursing Officer**

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**Visitor Restriction Policy for Outpatient Clinics:**

UW Medicine has implemented restricted visitation to clinics, including outpatient clinics within hospital buildings, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **Routine visiting is suspended in UW Medicine hospitals until transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat to the health of the community.**

- Patients may have one person accompany them during a clinic visit
- Post-partum mothers may have one person accompany them in addition to their newborn
- Children under the age of 18 may accompany their parent to clinic appointments
- All individuals will be screened for symptoms<sup>2</sup> of respiratory illness
- Only asymptomatic individuals will be allowed
- All individuals over 2-years of age entering the hospital or clinic must wear a mask in accordance with the [Required and Extended Use Masking Policy](#) and [Masking Accommodation Policy](#)
- Visitors cannot have pending COVID-19 tests that were taken due to symptoms or exposure to a person who tested positive with COVID-19
- Individuals cannot have tested positive nor been in contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days
- To maximize safety, individuals may not consume food or beverages in lobbies or waiting areas
- Visitor restriction policy also applies to UW Medicine employees

**No other visitors will be allowed at this time. Any exceptions to this policy must be cleared by the Administrator, Director, AOC or Chief Nursing Officer**

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<sup>2</sup> Symptoms: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.