

Main Line Health Visitation Guidelines

Main Line Health recognizes the important role visitation has in the health of our patients. During this time visitation will be allowed but only according to the following circumstances. Visitors are permitted in the cafeteria, restrooms, and their approved patient area. Visitation is always at the **discretion of the patient's care team**. Visitation hours are from 8:00am to 7:00pm. **Exceptions to any of the below guidelines may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to the Nurse Manager or designee. (Nursing Supervisor on Off-Hours)**

General Visitor Guidelines

1. Infection Prevention:

Visitors to COVID+ or COVID quarantine patients require the following PPE: gown, and tight-fitting isolation/surgical/disposable mask

Visitors and Patients are to wear a tight-fitting isolation/surgical/disposable mask. Compliance is required throughout the visit, including in patient rooms. Visitors who do not follow mask requirements will be required to end their visit and exit the facility.

Visitors and Patients should maintain appropriate social distancing as much as possible.

Visitors should practice hand hygiene before and after visit.

If there is a possible visitor exposure Nurse Manager will be directed to coordinate the identification and direction of information to visitors

2. Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP)/Extubation:

Visitation is allowed for COVID negative patients during an AGP. Visitors may not be in the room with COVID positive patients on BiPAP, heated high flow, trach collars or aerosol masks. Visitors will not be able to visit patients for 1 hour after completion of an AGP if patient is COVID positive. For Hospice and End of Life see visitation type section 13 and for Pediatrics see visitation type section 3.

3. Visit Time:

Visitation Hours will be from 8a to 7pm. In the case of Semi-Private Rooms scheduling practices should be used to limit exposure.

4. Visitor Age:

Children below the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

5. Clergy:

Visits by clergy will not be constricted to the visitor limits defined in the visitor guidelines.

6. MLH Employees:

Visits by MLH employees will not be constricted to the visitor limits defined in the visitor guidelines.

7. Active Outbreaks:

Visitation is not recommended on any unit with an active outbreak. Campus leadership and Infection Prevention will make final determination on visitation for these units.

Visitation Types

1. Hospital Inpatients:

2 visitors are permitted at a time each patient. Visitors are allowed to swap out throughout the day. Visitation of patients in semi-private rooms must be coordinated by the patient care team to ensure visitors are staggered.

2. Emergency Department:

It is understood that at times a support person may be necessary for a patient and once the patient is bedded two support persons may be allowed but the ED waiting area may only allow for one support person to accommodate for social distancing. Certainly, a support person may be allowed if approved by the ED nurse or physician AND it is clinically necessary for the care of the patient; or in extenuating circumstances based on the severity or type of illness, age of the patient, etc., as determined by the ED nurse or physician. Guidelines are as follows:

- Patients in need of around the clock caregivers
- Patients with neurocognitive disorders
- Patients with acute altered mental status
- Patients at end of life
- Pediatrics

3. Pediatric:

2 visitors at a time to be masked at access point, unless already masked. Regardless of COVID status, essential parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may remain with pediatric patient during all care, including AGP's.

4. NICU:

2 primary caregivers may be at the bedside at the same time 24 hours a day. 2 additional pre-identified visitors (these must be the same visitors for the entire stay) per infant above the age of 18 may visit during the normal visiting hours of 11am-7pm. (Total of 2 people per infant at the bedside at any given time). Visitors may swap throughout the day while maintaining the max of 2 people at the infant's bedside at a given time.

5. Labor & Delivery:

2 healthy partners/support persons (Doula considered support person)

6. Antepartum:

1 approved support person for 24 hrs for entire stay with 2 additional visitors permitted at a time for each patient from 8a-7pm. Visitors are allowed to swap out throughout the day.

7. Postpartum:

1 approved support person for 24 hrs for entire stay with 2 additional visitors permitted at a time for each patient from 8a-7pm. Visitors are allowed to swap out throughout the day.

8. Intellectual, Developmental or Cognitive Disability, Communication Barrier, or Behavioral Concerns:

At least 1 visitor or support person for entire stay.

9. Outpatient/Ambulatory Sites (Non-Surgical Sites):

1 visitor or support person

10. Ultrasounds for Perinatal Testing:

1 visitor or support person

11. Procedural/Surgical Areas/Sites:

As deemed appropriate by the clinical team, 1 Support Person/Visitor will be permitted to visit in the pre-procedural area and again in the post-procedural area. The support person shall remain in the designated waiting area outside these times. MLH approved masks must be worn by Support Person/Visitor mask can not be removed during visit.

12. Behavioral Health

Visitation is currently prohibited

13. Hospice & End of Life:

Visitation hours and number of visitors apply for both COVID & Non-COVID patients. If Patient is COVID-19 positive then Visitor(s) should be advised that they are considered exposed and should be [counseled](#) on appropriate quarantine and should follow up with their local health department or primary care provider.

Additional visitors beyond the 6-person limit will be approved by Nurse Manager in collaboration with the Palliative Care team. Paperwork defining designated visitors and any exceptions should be completed by local nursing leadership.

Local nursing leadership will coordinate visitor swapping with entrance staff by requiring one visit or leave the building prior to another entering to maintain no more than 3 family members in the building at any given time.

Families unwilling to comply with visitation guidelines will be quickly addressed by campus leadership. Palliative care will provide support to ensure consistent messaging.

13a. Hospice and Comfort Care:

For Hospice Patients and Comfort Care Patients: 6 visitors are allowed between 8 AM and 8 PM.

Approved visitors will not be able to visit patients for 1 hour after completion of an AGP if patient is COVID positive. Visitors may not be in the room with COVID positive patients on BiPAP, heated high flow, trach collars or aerosol masks. The medical team can determine if any therapy could be suspended for 1 hour prior and during a visit. Exceptions may be approved by Nurse Manager in collaboration with the Palliative Care team. If condition worsens please refer to End of Life guidelines(13b).

13b. End of Life:

For End of Life Patients (such as: anticipated death within hours, palliative extubation, etc.): 6 visitors are allowed at any time with rotation.

During palliative extubation, the 1 hour wait time for AGPs will be waived.

14. Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital:

2 visitors are permitted at a time for each patient. Inpatient visitation hours will be from 4pm-9pm Monday – Friday and 1pm-8pm Saturday and Sunday. In the case of Semi-Private Rooms scheduling practices may be used to limit exposure.

Employee Visitation Guidelines

- Employee/medical staff visitors are expected to self-screen before entering our campuses whether working or visiting
- MLH ID Badge must be visible, including on entry
- Employees/medical staff should report to the nurses' station when they arrive. They need to speak with the nursing staff prior to entering the patient's room
- Employees/medical staff must wear PPE, including eye protection, while visiting. If they do not have eye protection (goggles or face shield) it will be provided by the staff
- Visitation is always at the discretion of the patient's care team
- Excludes: Labor and Delivery, Procedural Areas and NICU, COVID Patients
- Emergency Department visitation is permitted but may be limited or denied at the discretion of the patient's care team
- Employee visitors are permitted for post-partum/ Mother Baby
- Employees may visit all campuses
- An Employee visit does *not* count as part of the visitor count