

Facility Visitor Policy

Guidelines

In response to the decline in the number of COVID-19 cases in Harris County and the greater Houston area, Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center is implementing the following visitor guidelines, **starting Monday, May 2, 2022.**

Inpatient hospitalization, Procedural Areas and the Emergency Department:

- Visitors age 12 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult or guardian who is at least 18 while in the hospital.
- Please be aware that specific visitation times and guidelines may vary by unit, which may include age restriction such as in certain critical care units. Check with hospital personnel upon arrival for further details. Specific visitation guidelines for COVID-19 patients is provided below. Exceptions can be made for end-of-life care. Please contact the hospital department leadership for more information.
- All visitors will be required to clear a health screening prior to entry into the hospital. Proceeding into the hospital means each visitor does not have COVID symptoms, a temperature (100.0 or above) or has not tested positive for COVID in the past 10 days. Visitors who are unable to meet these requirements will be asked to visit another day when they are symptom free.
- Well-fitted masks are required for all visitors and must be worn at all times while in the hospital. Masks will be available at each point of entry.
- While the number of patient visitors will not be specifically limited in most areas, appropriate physical distancing is required in all areas of the hospital including patient rooms, waiting areas and hallways.

Other circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by hospital administration.

We also encourage visitors to remain closely connected to their loved ones through virtual means, including Skype, FaceTime, and/or phone.

Guidance for Visitors:

- Must be 12 years old or older unless approved by hospital administration
- Must pass the screening at the designated entrances which includes:
 - No COVID-19 symptoms per CDC guidelines
 - Have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
 - Do not have a temperature (100.0 or above) when entering the facility
- Must frequently wash their hands, limit interactions with others, practice social distancing, are restricted to only the locations designated by the facility, and must limit time outside of the patient's room.
- Will be required to wear a well-fitted mask during their hospital visit per CDC guidelines. If a visitor or single designated caregiver does not have a mask, the facility will provide one.
- Religious Counselors are allowed to visit at any time pending they meet screening requirements and wearing of personal protective equipment per hospital guidelines.

Visitors will not be allowed:

- Who refuse to wear a mask per hospital guidelines.
- Who refuse to be screened prior to entry.
- Are under the age of 12, unless approved by hospital administration.
- Who have a medical condition that prevents them from being able to appropriately wear a mask.
- Who have a temperature or who answer yes to any of the screening questions.
- When the patient's attending physician has restricted visitation due to in-person visitation with that patient may lead to the transmission of an infectious agent that poses a serious community health risk. In the event this restriction is in place daily communication to the authorized individual the patient has identified will occur. Communication will include the patient's condition and estimated date and time of discharge.

We will not allow Visitors who:

- Are under the age of 18, unless approved by hospital administration.
- Have a medical condition that prevents them from being able to appropriately wear a mask.
- Refuse to be screened prior to entry.
- Have a temperature or who answer yes to any of the screening questions.
- Refuse to properly wear a face mask (covering your mouth and nose), eye protection, and gown and gloves while in the patient's room.
- Do not follow guidelines for visitation including required infection prevention protocols
- Are visiting a patient who has a no in-person visitation order placed by the attending physician. When the patient's attending physician has restricted visitation, you may not visit. This determination made by an attending physician is valid for not more than five days after the date the determination is made unless renewed by an attending physician. In the event this restriction is in place, daily communication to the authorized individual the patient has identified will occur. Communication will include the patient's condition and estimated date and time of discharge.

PLEASE NOTE: We welcome you to the hospital, however, if you are unable to follow the safety procedures that keep you, our patients and healthcare personnel safe, you will be asked to leave and no longer visit.

Visiting COVID-19 Positive Patients in Isolation:



We require that you properly wear a face mask (covering your mouth and nose), eye protection, gown and gloves while in the patient's room. We have trained personnel to help you.



We will provide you with appropriate personal protective equipment - do not share your mask, face shield, gown and gloves among family members.



For your protection, do not eat or drink while in the patient's room.



Wash your hands frequently, at minimum upon entry to the hospital as well as entry and exit of the patient's room. Wash you hands before and after putting on mask, gown, gloves and eye protection.



Limit touching any surfaces and follow social distancing guidelines.



We ask that you restrict your movement within the hospital and limit your visit to only the patient's room you are there to see. For your safety and the safety of others, avoid going to other locations in the facility such as the cafeteria.

Visitors who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19, such as older adults and those with underlying medical conditions, are strongly discouraged from visiting.