

Facility Visitor

Guidelines

In response to the rapidly rising number of COVID-19 cases in the communities we serve, beginning Monday, December 7, Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center is further limiting visitation to continue to provide ongoing protection for our patients, employees, and physicians while balancing the key role caregivers play in the quality of care and outcomes of patients.

Visitors aged 18 and older will be allowed in the hospital under the following circumstances:

A single designated caregiver acting on the patient's behalf will be allowed for non-COVID-19 patients:

- During the day of a procedure until the patient leaves the pre-procedural area and receives a call to come back post-procedure.
- During the day of discharge

A single designated caregiver acting on the patient's behalf will be allowed for non-COVID-19 hospitalized patients in addition to day of procedure and day of discharge if the following is met:

- The single designated caregiver must show a negative COVID-19 test result collected within 5 days of visitation. Results must be presented with each visit to show testing within a 5 day timeframe.
- The single designated caregiver must be the same person for the patient's entire stay at the hospital.
- The single designated caregiver will be allowed to visit in the patient's room from 8am-8pm.

A legally authorized representative of the patient if unable to fulfill their role via technology.

End of life:

In extraordinary end-of-life situations, non-COVID-19 patients will be limited to two adult visitors at a time (for a maximum of one hour). COVID-19 positive patients or Patients Under Investigation (PUI) will be limited to one visitor only (for a maximum of one hour). Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by hospital administration.

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

PLEASE NOTE: All waiting areas within the hospital will remain closed during this time.

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

Guidance for Visitors & Single Designated Caregivers who meet the exceptions list:

- Must be 18 years old or older.
- Must pass the screening at the designated entrances which includes:
 - No COVID-19 symptoms per CDC guidelines
 - Have not traveled to infected areas with COVID-19 in the past 14 days
 - Have not been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- 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 cloth face covering mask during their hospital visit per CDC and CMS guidelines. If a visitor or single designated caregiver does not have a mask, the facility will provide one.

Until the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided:

- Healthcare workers, visitors, and patients with fever, cough, sore throat, or other COVID-19 like symptoms are not permitted in any area of the hospital, unless seeking care.
- Anyone who has traveled to high-risk areas for COVID-19 or had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the past 14 days are not permitted to visit any area of the hospital, unless seeking care.
- All patients and approved visitors are requested to wear a mask while in the hospital.
- Staff will escort patients to and from appointments if needed. Friends/family will drop patients off and pick them up from the front lobby.

Visitors will not be allowed:

- For COVID-19 positive or Patients Under Investigation (PUI) including dedicated COVID-19 hospital units.
- Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by hospital administration.
- Based on community prevalence and facility space considerations, slight variations may exist at the hospital.