

# Facility Visitor Policy

## Guidelines

In response to the rapidly rising number of COVID-19 cases in the communities we serve, beginning Thursday, January 21, 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.

### Due to the increase in community spread of COVID-19, starting Thursday, January 21, 2021, visitors will not be allowed in the hospital.

A Single Designated Caregiver acting on the patient's behalf will be allowed for non-COVID-19 patients in the following situations:

- During the day of a procedure until the patient leaves the pre-procedural area. During the time of the patient's procedure, the Single Designated Caregiver will be required to leave the facility and will receive a call to return post-procedure. The Single Designated Caregiver is required to provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test result within 5 days of the procedure, consistent with the patient's requirement.
- For simple diagnostic testing in which the patient is not required to be tested, the Single Designated Caregiver may only accompany the patient if the patient's condition requires an escort and/or wheelchair assistance.
- During the day of discharge, the Single Designated Caregiver is required to provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test result within 5 days of the day of discharge in order to come to the patient's room.
- Test results must be presented prior to each visit showing a negative COVID-19 PCR test result within a 5 day timeframe.
- A COVID-19 Antibody Test (blood test) and COVID-19 Antigen Test are not acceptable for entry.

#### 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 the 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.