



## **Visitation Policy**

*Effective 11/9/2021*

**To limit possible exposure to COVID-19, visitors are limited in all areas of Northern Regional Hospital (NRH), including the Emergency Department, OP Departments, and Clinics. Visitors must be healthy (no cough, fever, or flu-like symptoms). Notice of patient visitation rights are provided to the patient and, when possible, family members of patients.**

### **Requirements For All Visitors:**

- All visitors/caregivers must comply with entrance screening, as NRH will continue with limited and monitored points of entry.
- Entry will be denied to visitors who screen positive for symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- All visitors must wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose at all times. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own mask. Visitors in need of a surgical mask may ask a staff member at a Nursing Station or Check-In/Registration Desk. Visitors refusing to wear a mask or failure to wear the mask appropriately may be denied visitation.
- Visitors must wear a visitor badge at all times. Visitor badges are provided at entrance screening locations.
- Social distancing guidelines should be followed at all times in the patient rooms and in common areas like hallways.
- Visitors under the age of 12 will not be permitted at this time, with the exception of end-of-life situations. Please note age restrictions do not apply to anyone seeking medical care.

### **Non-COVID -19 Patients:**

- 1) Inpatients will be allowed one visitor at a time. The visitors should remain in the patient room the duration of their visit. Visitors may switch during the same day.
  - a) Exception – OB Labor and Delivery will allow three visitors per patient.
  - b) Exception – Patients under the age of 18 may have both parents visit.
  - c) Visitors should check in and out at one of the screening stations.
  
- 2) Surgical and outpatient diagnostic patients will be allowed one visitor to accompany them.
  - a) Patients under the age of 18 may have both parents accompany them.
  - b) The caregiver/responsible person may remain in the surgical waiting area until the patient is ready for discharge to home, or the surgeon has completed necessary condition update discussions.

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- 3) Waiting areas will not be utilized for multiple family members or visitors. Visitor switching off (as permitted by the policy) must transition outside the facility.

**COVID-19 or Patients suspected of COVID 19:**

- 1) COVID positive or symptomatic suspected COVID patients may have compassionate care visits to include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a) End-of-life situations.
  - b) A patient who was living with his or her family before recently being admitted to the facility is struggling with the change in environment and lack of family support.
  - c) A patient who is grieving after a friend or family member recently passed away.
  - d) A patient who needs cueing and encouragement with eating or drinking, previously provided by family or caregivers, is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.
  - e) A patient, who used to talk and interact with others, is experiencing emotional distress, seldom speaking, or crying more frequently when the patient had rarely cried in the past.
  - f) For OB COVID-19 patients, the support person will be allowed to be present to help provide for social distancing for the infant.
  - g) Patients under the age of 18 may have a parents present.
- 2) For patients (COVID and Non-COVID) in which death is reasonably anticipated within 24-48 hours, immediate family/POA/support person, up to two (2), will be allowed at the patient bedside at a time.
- 3) The visitor(s) should understand the risks associated with visitation.
- 4) COVID patient visitors must don droplet precaution Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that includes mask, face shield, gloves, and gown.
- 5) Visitors that do not follow appropriate PPE guidelines will not be allowed to visit.
- 6) No visitation will be permitted during high-risk procedures.
- 7) Waiting areas will not be utilized for multiple family members or visitors. Visitor switching off must transition outside the facility.

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*We appreciate your patience and understanding in adhering to this policy.*

