

Temporary Visitor Policy - *Updated 9/3/2021*

Visitation is restricted at RFGH. No children allowed. All visitors must be screened before entering, wear a source control mask provided by RFGH for the duration of the visit and practice hand hygiene. Visitors will stay with the patient or in a designated wait area during procedures while keeping socially distanced from others. Video/telephone presence with patients is welcome at the discretion of patients as an alternative to physical presence.

COVID-19 Patient or PUI

No visitors are allowed for COVID-19 patients or patients suspected of COVID-19 due to highly contagious disease. Note: Exception per Compassionate Visitation Policy.

Emergency Department

Visitors are restricted in the Emergency Department treatment areas due to the unpredictable environment. One parent or guardian for minors and one visitor if it is essential for the patient's physical or emotional well-being and care. Such necessity shall be determined by the care team as long as social distancing can be maintained.

Outpatient Services

Visitors are restricted.

- **Ultrasound:** One non-pediatric visitor with obstetrical ultrasounds
- **Provider office settings:** One visitor may accompany the patient if essential for patient's physical or emotional well-being and care. The office will prescreen the visitor for COVID infection risk. Visitor may be asked to wait in an office waiting room rather than the treatment room. Both parents/guardian may accompany minors.
- **Other areas such as Laboratory, Radiology and Oncology:** Due to limited space and inability to socially distance, one visitor if patient needs assistance due to mobility, communication issues to the registration area or if essential to patients emotional well-being.

Inpatient

Except for COVID-19 patient or PUI (see above) inpatients are allowed one visitor at a time between the hours of 8am - 8pm. A limited number of visitors may swap out as long as there is no more than one at a time, masking and social distancing is maintained and excessive traffic in and out of the hospital is contained.

- The patient will designate who their visitors will be.
- The visitor will stay in the patient room and not congregate in waiting areas.
- Both the visitors and patient will wear a mask or face covering for the duration of the visit according to the Universal Masking (Source Control) Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 policy.
- Obstetrical patients may have one visitor accompany them for the birthing experience.
- Patients who are at the end-of-life may have up to four visitors at one time.

All Areas

Other exceptions must be approved by the Nursing Supervisor who shall collaborate with the charge nurse or department manager.

Communication with the patient's designated support person will be established when they are not allowed to visit. Phone calls and use of virtual video communication will be encouraged. ED will contact the patient's designated support person at patient's consent after initial patient assessment and will be updated on the treatment plan. A continuing follow up communication plan will be established with communication occurring frequently/regularly as appropriate.

Visitors who are accompanying patients to the hospital and who wait in their vehicles while the patient is being seen and treated shall be allowed to use the public bathrooms by the ED or the MOB entrance.

References:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers
<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R37SOMA.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Comprehensive Hospital Preparedness Checklist for Coronavirus Disease 2019
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hcp-hospital-checklist.html>