

Visitation Guidelines

Effective 3/17/2022

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ChristianaCare has implemented visitor restrictions since March 2020. Visitor restrictions will be based on levels of community transmission, which is now considered “moderate.” Please note these are not the same as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s “Community Levels,” which are intended to guide masking and other COVID-19 interventions in community settings, not in health care settings. Visitation policies may differ between patients suspected of COVID-19 and those seeking care for other reasons, as outlined below. Our visitation policy will continue to support the needs of our patients and their loved ones while protecting their safety and the safety of our caregivers.

Hospitalized Patients

- Inpatients in our Christiana, Wilmington and Union hospitals may have visitors daily between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Visitors must be 12 years of age or older, or 16 years or older for intensive care units (ICUs).
- Certain inpatient areas have restrictions on number of visitors able to visit at the same time, per usual policies:
 - OB Emergency and peri-operative areas: Two.
 - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU): Two.
 - Labor & Delivery: Four.
- Individuals coming to the emergency departments (ED) may have up to two visitors accompany them. The visitors may not swap out during the ED portion of the visit.
- Overnight visitation is not allowed, except in Labor & Delivery, Postpartum, High Risk, Antepartum, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Pediatric units, where one visitor is allowed overnight visitation.
- Patients having outpatient surgery may have up to two visitors accompany them. The visitors must be 16 years of age or older.

Ambulatory Practices and Services

Patients presenting to outpatient practices and ambulatory services may have visitors. Usual restrictions on number of visitors apply.

COVID-19-specific Visitation Policy — Emergency Department (ED) and OB Triage

- Asymptomatic visitors may not enter.

COVID-19-specific Visitation Policy — Hospitals

Because of the risk to the visitors of COVID-19 exposure, visitors are not allowed for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, with limited exceptions.

Because of the risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, those who are 65 years old or older, or who have other underlying health conditions, are discouraged from visiting patients who have COVID-19.

The following visitors are permitted for confirmed and suspected COVID-19 infected patients:

- Up to two visitors total for patients in hospice or who are at end of life.
- One support person for the following patients:
 - One support person in Postpartum, High Risk, Antepartum, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Pediatric units.
 - Support persons of COVID-19-positive mothers whose babies require care in the NICU should discuss with NICU caregivers additional steps to best prevent exposing the baby.
 - One support person, as defined by the Delaware Division of Public Health, for patients with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including chronic cognitive impairment such as dementia. (This includes patients presenting with an acute problem, such as a stroke, that is expected to require a support person/caretaker upon discharge.)

General Visitor Requirements

- All visitors are screened for COVID-19 symptoms and will not be permitted entry if they fail the screening procedure.
- Visitors who have tested positive for COVID-19 (using any home or laboratory-based test) within the past 10 days are not allowed to visit. Please note that this differs from current CDC guidelines, which allow people to end isolation after five days with masking for another five days. This is to protect our vulnerable patient population, as persons may be contagious beyond five days. Persons with underlying conditions that weaken their immune systems

should defer visitation for at least 20 days. ChristianaCare staff will not be assessing visitors for immune-compromising conditions.

- For ambulatory visits, parents should make every attempt to find child care to avoid bringing non-patient children (i.e., siblings) into the facility. If child care is not available, bringing such children to a visit must be discussed with the practice/area in advance.
- Visitors may not stay overnight except within Women's & Children's Services as specified above.

All visitors should:

- Follow masking guidelines, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette precautions while in the common areas of the facility.
- Bring a medical, KN95, or N95-style mask from home if possible. If not masked or wearing a cloth mask upon arrival, a medical mask will be provided. Masks that are provided should be re-used until damaged or soiled, or no longer able to be breathed through. A new mask will be provided on subsequent visitation days.
 - N95 masks with valves are allowed as they have been shown to provide adequate source control.
- Respect social distancing of at least six feet as much as possible, including in the patient's room.
- Perform hand hygiene frequently with soap/water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer and limit surfaces touched.
- Remain in the patient's room except for entry to/exit from the hospital/facility to the extent possible. Visitors should limit their movement within the facility and if required to wait in the lobby, they should remain masked and physically distant from others.
- All visitors **must remain masked** for the duration of their visit, even if they are vaccinated or have had a recent negative COVID-19 test. **This includes remaining masked while in the patient's room, due to the risk of transmitting COVID-19 to the patient they are visiting.** When possible, the patient should also be masked when visitors are present.
- Visitation privileges may be discontinued at any time based on the clinical situation of the patient, visitor noncompliance with recommended procedures or other factors.

Thank you for being a partner in your care. If you have questions, please speak with your nurse or a member of our care team.