

Lifespan Physician Group Guideline

SUBJECT: Visitors during COVID-19

Page 1 of 2

DATE: 7.23.2020

PURPOSE: Due to the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the U.S. and Rhode Island, visitation restrictions across Lifespan are necessary to protect and maintain the health and safety of our patients, visitors, and staff.

A “visitor” is any person accompanying the patient to an appointment, test, or procedure. If an employee is accompanying a family member or friend who is a patient, the employee is considered a visitor.

UNIVERSAL VISITOR SCREENING:

- All visitors meeting criteria for visitation will be screened for symptoms (as directed by Infection Control) or potential exposure to COVID-19.
- Must wear a dated visitor screening sticker.
 - GREEN screening sticker for escorts. An escort is someone coming in to accompany an outpatient to an appointment, test, procedure, or to the emergency department.
 - RED screening sticker for visitors.
 - BLUE screening sticker for patients.
- Required to wear a non-rated surgical face mask at all times during the visit.
 - Anyone wearing a surgical mask or N95 mask without a valve, may wear their own mask.
 - Anyone wearing a cloth mask, cloth face covering, or any mask with a valve is to be given a non-rated surgical mask. Ask the person to replace their mask with the surgical mask given or they may choose to wear the surgical mask over their mask/face covering from home.
 - Visitors who fail to agree to wear the surgical mask will be asked to leave.
- Asked to perform hand hygiene.
- Young visitors who cannot perform source control will not be allowed to visit.
- Those who fail the screening process will not be permitted even if wearing a mask; and will be asked to wait in the car.
 - May not wait in common areas (lobby, waiting room).
 - At the discretion of the provider, visitor can video or audio conference into the appointment discussion.
 - There may be rare exceptions where a symptomatic parent/guardian or caregiver of a pediatric patient may be allowed.
- Visitation exceptions and restrictions apply to all employees and staff.

GUIDELINE:

On Hospital Campus

- Follow most current Lifespan hospital visitor policy.
- One visitor/escort or support person per patient MAY be allowed to accompany a patient for outpatient/ambulatory appointments or procedures. Decision(s) to allow or not allow are influenced by purpose of visit, length of time of the procedure/visit and need to maintain safety/social distancing guidelines in waiting areas and care/diagnostic locations and sites.

Off Hospital Campus

- One visitor/escort or support person per patient MAY be allowed to accompany a patient for outpatient/ambulatory appointments or procedures. Decision(s) to allow or not allow are influenced by purpose of visit, length of time of the procedure/visit and need to maintain safety/social distancing guidelines in waiting areas and care/diagnostic locations and sites.

Approved Visitors

- Legal guardian.
- Person essential to the care of a patient with a disability, including patients who have altered mental status, communication barriers, or behavioral concerns (such as patients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, dementia, or behavioral health needs).
- Support person for discussion of a new diagnosis, plan of care, procedure prep, or other sensitive conversation.
- Patients encouraged to avoid bringing visitor less than 18 years old.

- Visitors age 70 years or older, are not encouraged due to increased risk of Covid-19 infection.
- Official service animal allowed.

Screening Questions

1. Do you have a fever (Temp $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ or report of feeling feverish), cold symptoms, cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing, or GI symptoms (nausea/diarrhea)?
2. Do you have chills, headache, or muscle pain?
3. Do you have a loss of smell, reduced ability to smell or detect odors, or a reduced or distorted sense of taste?
4. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
5. Have you traveled from an area requiring 14-day quarantine*, or are awaiting COVID-19 test results?
6. Have you had contact in the last 14 days with a person who tested positive for the virus, is currently being tested, or has been placed on home quarantine by the Department of Health?

Note: Perform contactless temperature check when screening questions cannot be reliably answered.

*States requiring a 14-day quarantine: <https://health.ri.gov/covid/travel/> Visitors from these states are not allowed to accompany a patient unless they show proof of a negative test result within 48 hours of arriving in RI or have quarantined for 14 days since arrival in RI.

Screening

- Pre-visit confirmation call screenings are encouraged for all patient appointments. If a patient screens positive, they are to be triaged by clinical staff or provider to determine further action steps.
 - Offices are encouraged to provide specific instructions regarding visitors when calling to confirm the appointment, and do not have to allow a visitor if not necessary.
 - We encourage patients to avoid bringing children unless the child is the patient.
- Patients and visitors are screened upon arrival.
 - If a patient screens positive to any of the screening questions, the patient should be isolated, and the practice should follow the Outpatient Algorithm approved by infection control. <https://intranet.lifespan.org/ncov>
 - If a visitor screens positive to any of the screening questions, they will not be allowed to enter the practice even if wearing a mask. They will be asked to wait in the car.
 - At the discretion of the provider, visitor can video or audio conference into the appointment discussion.
- Give visitor a RED screening sticker. Write date and staff member's initials on sticker. Ask visitor to wear sticker.
 - BLUE screening sticker for patients.
 - RED screening sticker for visitors.
 - Order stickers through Office Services using the COVID cost center. Indicate the number of each color sticker you are requesting in "Comments/Instructions" box at the end of the form. <https://intranet.lifespan.org/departments/sites/environmental-central-laundry-and-office-services-rhode-island-hospital/lifespan-office-services-requisition-form>

Food & Beverages

- Unless necessary for a medical condition, patients and visitors are not allowed to bring open food or beverages to an appointment as this requires removal of mask to consume.

Interpreters & Vendors

- Treat as a visitor and follow above guidelines.

Residents & Students

- Residents are considered Lifespan employees. They are aware (and should be reminded on their first day) that by coming to work, they are agreeing to the employee attestation statement.
- Medical students: The person in charge of the student during a rotation reviews the self-screening policy on the first day of the rotation.