



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
300 E. HOSPITAL ROAD  
FORT GORDON, GEORGIA 30905-5650

MCHF-CDR

01 August 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR All Personnel, Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center (DDEAMC), Fort Gordon, GA 30905-5650

SUBJECT: Visitation Policy

1. This Policy supersedes the previous Hospital Visitation Policy dated 16 June 2022 and shall remain in effect until rescinded or replaced by the Hospital Commander.
2. The goal of this visitation guidance is to protect medical staff and beneficiaries from unnecessary exposure to COVID-19. This guidance applies to patients presenting to DDEAMC for in-person visits and to visitors accompanying patients. Visitation status will be determined based on CDC designated surrounding area local community transmission levels and is at the discretion of the Hospital Commander. The Nursing Supervisor is delegated the authority to make exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis, if needed, after discussing with the Deputy Commander for Nursing.
3. A visitor is defined as a relative, partner, friend or colleague who is a guest of a patient who also may provide assistance with transportation, rehabilitation, psychosocial support and/or cognitive needs of the patient in both the inpatient and outpatient settings.
4. All visitors will follow the requirements below and understand failure to adhere to these requirements may lead to having their visitation rights revoked.
  - a. Individuals who have any COVID-19 like symptoms, a Patient Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 or COVID-19 positive individuals are not permitted as visitors.
  - b. All visitors will wear a mask in accordance with current hospital masking policy at all times.
  - c. Perform hand hygiene.
  - d. Acknowledge their potential risk of exposure to and acquisition of COVID-19 infection while in the hospital.
5. Adult Inpatients:

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a. During local community transmission levels designated as low by the CDC, visitors will be permitted on the adult inpatient wards and intensive care unit (ICU) between the hours of 1100-2000.

b. During local community transmission levels designated as moderate, substantial or high by the CDC, one visitor will be permitted at a time for non-COVID patients on adult inpatient wards and in the ICU between the hours of 1100-2000. A second visitor will be permitted based on the attending physician's written order in the patient's EMR.

c. No visitors will be allowed on any adult inpatient wards for a Patient Under Investigation (PUI) or COVID-19 positive patient unless an exception is granted at the Department or Deputy level. If granted, the visitors will follow all guidelines as outlined in this policy.

d. Comfort care or terminally ill patients: Two visitors are allowed at a time (see each unit's local policy for guidance). Comfort Care or terminally ill status will be determined by the attending physician for the patient's primary inpatient service.

e. Due to the uniqueness of operations, the "one visitor" policy does not generally apply to the inpatient Behavioral Health Department. See each unit's local policy for guidance.

6. During local community transmission levels designated as moderate or higher by the CDC, all inpatient visitors will be required to review and sign a memorandum of understanding (Enclosure), to be maintained for the duration of the patient's stay. Inpatient visitors are expected to adhere to all of the following public health and infection control procedures:

a. All visitors will wear a mask in accordance with current hospital masking policy.

b. During local community transmission levels designated as moderate or higher by the CDC, all visitors will maintain six feet of physical distancing within the patient room as much as feasibly possible.

c. Perform hand hygiene immediately upon entering and leaving the patient room.

d. During local community transmission levels designated as moderate or higher by the CDC, all visitors must restrict movement to other areas of the hospital except as necessary for transit to and from the patient room.

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e. Acknowledge their potential risk of exposure to and acquisition of COVID-19 infection while in the hospital.

f. Acknowledge that failure to adhere to these requirements may lead to having their visitation rights revoked.

7. Pediatric Inpatients: Visitors of pediatric patients will follow the adult inpatient guidelines in Paragraph 5. with specific exceptions noted below:

a. Pediatric patient families are permitted to identify no more than two primary visitors for the duration of the hospital stay. As much as possible, only one primary caregiver will be present in the hospital at any one time.

b. If a caregiver develops symptoms of COVID-19, the caregiver will undergo testing and the pediatric patient will be treated as a PUI.

c. Pediatric patients hospitalized as a PUI or confirmed COVID-19 positive will be allowed only one designated caregiver who should stay with the patient in their room. This caregiver will be asked to limit travel within the hospital. The caregiver may order inpatient meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) for him/herself and the tray should be delivered to the room.

8. Outpatient Services:

a. During local community transmission levels designated as low by the CDC, visitors will be permitted to accompany adult and pediatric outpatients to facilitate care or treatment.

b. During local community transmission levels designated as moderate or higher by the CDC, one visitor will be permitted to accompany adult outpatients in order to facilitate care or treatment. An exception for pediatric patients authorizing a second caregiver and/or minor siblings to be permitted at the discretion of the treating provider as long as their presence does not disrupt the provision of care. Exceptions may be granted by the Department Chief/OIC as delegated by the Deputy Commander for Clinical Services.

c. During local community transmission levels designated as low, moderate or substantial by the CDC, one visitor per patient will be permitted at a time into the Emergency Department (ED) in order to facilitate care or treatment. COVID-19 PUI or COVID-19 positive individuals will not be permitted as visitors.

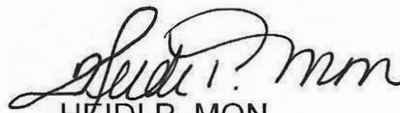
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d. For the safety of our ED patients and staff, visitors will not be permitted into the ED during local community transmission levels designated as high by the CDC. On a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the ED attending physician, one caretaker will be allowed into the ED exam room to provide additional history to optimize the patient's medical care and assist with disposition. If the patient requires admission, the visitor will not be allowed to accompany the patient to an inpatient floor unless they meet the previously mentioned criteria in paragraphs 5. and 6. and at the discretion of the primary medical and nursing team.

e. For the safety of our oncology patients, no visitors will be permitted in our oncology infusion areas where care is being delivered.

9. The Point of Contact for this policy is COL Charles Haislip, Deputy Commander for Clinical Services, at 706-787-3253 or [charles.g.haislip.mil@mail.mil](mailto:charles.g.haislip.mil@mail.mil).

Encl



HEIDI P. MON  
Colonel, MS  
Commanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SUBJECT: Guidance for In-Patient Visitors During local community transmission levels designated as moderate, substantial or high by the CDC

1. Reference. DDEAMC Visitor Policy, Dated 01 August 2022. Per paragraph 2, the goal of visitation guidance is to protect medical staff and beneficiaries from unnecessary exposure to COVID-19. This guidance applies to patients presenting to DDEAMC for in-person visits and to visitors accompanying patients for inpatient or outpatient care.
2. Any visitor exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to leave immediately. All visitors will be required to adhere to all public health and infection control procedures, to include:
  - a. Must wear a mask in accordance with current hospital making policy at all times.
  - b. Must maintain six feet of physical distancing to the extent possible while in the patient room.
  - c. Must perform hand hygiene immediately upon entering and leaving the patient room.
  - d. Movement to other areas of the hospital is prohibited except as deemed necessary and for transit to and from the patient room.
3. Any visitor who refuses to wear a mask as outlined above, or whenever requested by appropriate hospital staff, may be asked to leave the facility. If asked to leave for refusal to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, all visitation will be subject to immediate revocation.
4. With the application of signatures below; the undersigned acknowledges understanding of the aforementioned guidance, and is considered to express their intent to maintain compliance for the duration of the period of visitation.
5. A copy of this signed memorandum will be placed in the patient's chart at the nurse's station for future reference. Approved visitation period is from 1100 to 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Approved Visitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of ETP Approved Visitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Staff / Primary Nurse