

# Visitors Policy

## NO visitors are allowed across the SBH Health System with limited exceptions!

Based on guidance provided by the New York State Department of Health we have updated our visitor policies at SBH Health System to ensure a safe environment for our patients and visitors amid the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). As of April 12, 2020, due to the escalating COVID-19 emergency, we are prohibiting all visitors across the SBH Health System. This includes visitors to the emergency department.

There are limited exceptions to this policy which include the following:

### All Visitors:

Visit only if you are healthy. If you are feeling feverish, sudden onset cough and nasal congestion, please don't enter. All visitors are screened prior to entering the hospital. Sick visitors are asked to leave and visitors that have traveled outside of the United States are not permitted to visit. All visitors must be 15 years or older.

### Inpatient Locations:

A patient support person is permitted at the bedside for:

- Patients in labor and delivery- any patient giving birth can have a support person and/or doula who does not have symptoms of COVID-19 for the labor, delivery and remaining duration of the patient's stay. The presence of a support person and/or doula will be subject to exceptions for medical necessity.
- Pediatric patients
- Patients for whom a support person has been determined to be essential to the care of the patient (medically necessary) including patients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities with cognitive impairments including dementia.
- Patients in imminent end-of-life situations may be permitted one family member and/or legal representative at a time, as a support person at the bedside. Imminent end-of-life is defined as a patient who is actively dying, where death is anticipated within less than 24 hours.

All visitors will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 before entering clinical areas. Any support person who presents with or develops symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to leave the hospital. Support persons are required to wear PPE.

Discharge: **One** healthy visitor allowed to pick up discharged patient at lobby or ambulatory surgery unless ambulance pick up.

### Emergency Department

1. Peds ED – **One** healthy visitor per patient for duration – parent or legal guardian only
2. Adult ED – **No** visitors unless patient requires assistance. If patient requires assistance, one healthy visitor for duration

*These policies are subject to change as we continue to closely monitor the situation. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.*