



SBH Health System
Bronx, New York

TITLE: COVID-19 Policy for Inpatient and Emergency Department Visitation	SECTION: Administrative Policy and Procedures	Effective: 06/2020
		Reviewed:
		Revised: 10/19/2020, 1/04/2021, 04/01/2021, 05/10/2021, 06/21/2021, 12/2021
		Approved By: Administrative Policy and Committee
Date: 12/29/2021		
Prepared By: Vice President Patient Experience and Bioethics		

I. POLICY:

To ensure a safe environment for SBH patients, staff members, and visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic

II. PURPOSE:

To have stated procedures regarding the resumption of inpatient visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy is subject to change as we continue to closely monitor the situation.

III. PROCEDURES:

A. Main Hospital Visitors

1. Due to the increased cases of COVID-19, all visitors are prohibited across SBH Health System with following exceptions:
 - a. **Inpatient Pediatrics:** Pediatric patients may have two designated support persons with them at all times and these individuals may rotate.
 - b. **Patients in labor and delivery** can have a minimum of two support persons including a doula (if they have one) for the labor, delivery and remaining duration of the patient’s stay. The support persons can be the patient’s spouse, partner, sibling, parent, or other persons of their choice.
 - c. **Patients with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD):** Patients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and patients with cognitive impairments including dementia, may designate one support person to remain with them through their hospitalization.
 - d. **End of life situations: Two support persons** may be designated to remain with the patients in imminent end-of-life situations. Due to COVID, and other communicable diseases, visitors are not permitted in the morgue. If a family arrives while the body is still on the unit, before post mortem care is completed, the family may be allowed to view the body on the unit.

- i. The body cannot remain on the unit for more than 2 hours. If an exception needs to be made, the Nursing Director should be contacted.
2. COVID-19 positive patients may have visitors in the following situations:
 - a) **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. Support person must remain in the patient's room for duration of visit.
 - b) **Patients in imminent end-of-life situations.** Imminent end-of-life is defined as a patient who is actively dying, where death is anticipated within less than 24 hours. In the event the patient is a parent of a minor child, one adult family member and one child may be permitted at the patient bedside
 - c) A **pediatric patient** can have two visitors/caregivers at a time. Visitors/caregivers must remain in the patient's room for duration of visit.

B. Visitors that fall into the criteria of exceptions/Vendors

1. All visitors are to enter through the main entrance. Vendors are to be screened as well. All vendors must be fully vaccinated.
2. All visitors and vendors must be wearing a mask. If the visitor/vendor does not have a mask, they will be provided one. All must practice social distancing.
3. In urgent situations where a vendor is needed on-site, it will be the department's responsibility to ensure that the screening is done prior to or immediately when the vendor arrives in the area.
4. All visitors must be 12 years or older except in rare exceptions as determined by the hospital.
5. Visitors must remain in the patient's room except for entrance and exit from the hospital.
6. Visitors who fail to wear a face mask and other PPE will be asked to leave the facility.
7. Visitors must undergo symptom and temperature checks upon entering the facility as indicated by SBH Health screening questionnaire.

C. Screening of Visitors

1. Prior to entering the hospital, all visitors must first go to the concierge. The concierge will check to see if the patient to be visited does NOT have COVID-19 and does not have any visitor restrictions.
2. If the patient does NOT have COVID-19 and has no restrictions, the concierge will give the visitor a pass with the patient's room and bed number.
3. The visitor will then give the pass to the medical personnel stationed next to the concierge. A Security Officer will be posted nearby in case of problems.
4. Medical personnel will conduct a symptom and temperature check as indicated by SBH Health screening questionnaire
5. If the visitor passes the screening, the medical personnel will return the pass and give the visitor a colored bracelet.

6. Concierge will record all visitors' names, contact information, dates of visit, names of patients to be visited and temperatures in an electronic log. A handout with visitation guidelines will be provided.
7. The visitor will then show the bracelet and pass to the Security Officer to gain entry to the hospital.
8. Visitors who present with or develop symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to leave. They should be told to contact their primary care physician.
9. Visitors who have had COVID will be permitted if they meet the following criteria:
 - a) Greater than 10 days have elapsed since initial diagnosis
 - b) No fever in the last 24hours without the use of fever-reducing medications
 - c) No symptoms as defined in the screening questionnaire

If a patient has come for a hospital outpatient visit/procedure and has mistakenly come to the main entrance, he or she will be permitted to pass through to go directly to the Ambulatory Surgery area after being screened. The patient must be wearing a mask.

D. Inpatient Units

1. Once permitted entry, visitors must report directly to the unit's nursing station. There they will be educated in social distancing, hand hygiene, the use of PPE, the risks of being exposed to COVID-19 while visiting, and given any additional PPE if needed.
2. The visitor will then be escorted straight to the patient's room. Visitors are not permitted to wander around the hospital; they must stay in the patient's room.

E. Kane Units

There is no visitation on Kane 2 and Kane 3. Staff will assist with virtual visits and patient phone calls.

F. Emergency Department

1. As the emergency department does not have patient rooms, visitation will only be allowed for:
 - a) Critical situations as determined by the staff
 - b) Imminent end of life situations
 - c) Patients for whom a support person has been determined to be essential to the care of the patient including patients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities with cognitive impairments including dementia
 - d) Pediatric patients will be allowed one visitor per patient for the duration; parent or legal guardian only.

SBH Screening Questionnaire

revised 06/21/2021

Everyone, regardless of symptoms, should wear a mask covering their nose and mouth

Screening is positive if “Yes” to any of the questions below

A. Symptom Screen

In the last 14 days, have you ever had

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----|
| 1. Fever? | Yes | No |
| 2. Chills? | Yes | No |
| 3. Runny Nose? | Yes | No |
| 4. Cough? | Yes | No |
| 5. Sore throat ? | Yes | No |
| 6. Loss of taste or smell? | Yes | No |
| 7. Headache? | Yes | No |
| 8. Muscle pain? | Yes | No |
| 9. Diarrhea? | Yes | No |
| 10. Shortness of breath ? | Yes | No |

B. Exposure Screen

In the last 14 days, have you ever had

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Any close contact with someone diagnosed or under investigation for COVID-19? | Yes | No |
| 2. A. Been tested for COVID-19 anywhere? | Yes | No |

C. COVID-19 Screen

If yes and tested positive, has it been less than 10 days since your symptoms started?

Yes (less than 10 days, home) No (more than 10 days and no symptoms or fever in the last 24 hours, OK)

D. Temperature Screen

- | |
|---|
| 1. Check temperature if its equal to or greater than 100.4 F, patient/visitor must go home. |
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SCREENING RESULT:

If positive screen from one or more of the categories above, the patient/visitor must go home and will be contacted by the clinic

REFERENCES

COVID-19 Policy for Outpatient Appointments and Procedures, Revised 04/01/2021

NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COVID-19 UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR
HOSPITAL VISITATION 03/26/2021

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR
HOSPITAL VISITATION AND NON-HOSPITAL EMPLOYED PATIENT SUPPORT
06/07/2021